WORKS IN PROGRESS

Volume 14, Number 4 THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION August 2003

Kaos Matters

Austin Kelley

KAOS matters- to me, to our community, to the world. That's why I'm suing KAOS in Federal Court, as well as The Evergreen State College (my Alma Mater), and assorted administrators that I have known. This likely makes no sense at all to the casual reader, so in order to really explain I'll have to go back 19 years to the beginning of my history with KAOS, Evergreen's "Community Radio Station".

I had just arrived in Olympia that morning, fresh on the heels of helping found KXCI in Tucson, another independent, grassroots station. Michael Huntsberger, the new Station Manager, greeted me warmly and took me on the tour of the humble KAOS studios. Next thing I knew, I was a News Director, doing a nightly newscast for my community. Over the next six years, as long as I lived in Olympia, I worked at KAOS, and I enjoyed every minute.

Michael clearly loved his job, and ALL of the staff and volunteers had a sense of camaraderie and passion for their work that you could truly feel. To me, those were the golden days of KAOS. When I returned to KAOS in 1998, after eight years in San Francisco, I assumed that everything must be basically the same. I had no idea how wrong I was.

It wasn't until the following summer that the illusion melted. Friends at KPFA in Berkeley, flagship of the Pacifica "network", had been telling me about their problems with management for years. Now Lynn Chadwick, Executive Director of the Pacifica Foundation, had taken over KPFA with armed guards, and had locked out the paid staff. Generic canned music brought in from an undisclosed location in Texas substituted for KPFA's usual fare of thoughtful, and radical, words and music. Independent media activists from coast to coast were outraged at this escalation of the "professionalization" of Pacifica, and they said so.

Meanwhile, back at KAOS, another story was being told. Michael Huntsberger, whom I always liked and respected, who was on air for a special two-hour broadcast, was spinning a very different tale. In his presentation of reality, both sides were equally tainted, so "our" community radio station would NOT be getting involved. I knew very little about what was really going on, but I knew that Michael's story sounded strange to me. After a lot of research, and conversation with leaders of the indy-media movement, I figured some things out.

Firstly, the mainstreaming of the Pacifica family had been going on since at least 1992. Leaders of the "network", in cahoots with corporate and government figures, were taking Pacifica toward the mythical middle-of-the-road under the guise of "professionalizing" the sound, so that, they claimed, they could attract MORE listeners to their still groovy message! Principled staff that understood the truth beneath the rhetoric and opposed the changes were being canned one by one, and the rest were being controlled by fear and favoritism.

Lynn Chadwick, the leader of the purges, had been responsible for "professionalizing" community stations around the country for almost a decade before that. As head of the National Federation of Community Broadcasters (NFCB), she had used something called the Healthy Station Project (financed by the Federal Government), to lead financially troubled stations in a similar direction. This program usually directed community stations to improve

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Real Democracy Starts With Us

Robert R. Ross

For all intents and purposes, the proposed arts and conference center has already been built. The City Council is bound and determined to ignore its' constituency and go ahead with the estimated $15 million project. However, opponents of the center are equally determined to disregard their elected officials, bringing the project to a halt using a variety of guerilla tactics ranging from lawsuits to grass-roots democracy.

Overwhelming sentiment within the community is not wholly opposed to the arts and conference center, but antipathies arise over the Council's disregard for public opinion and their closed-door proceedings. Depending on whom you listen to, the conference center will either benefit the community or bankrupt it. Advocates argue the project will increase the flow of commerce into the downtown area, stimulate and enrich the artistic community, while also providing much needed parking.

Detractors of the planned center conversely argue such a project will drain

(continued page 6)

Member-Owned Co-op, or What?

Two local farmers argue for greater membership participation in major decisions at the Olympia Food Coop

David Lavender

Recently I found out that the Coop was thinking about buying scanners. I heard that a couple of my friends were going to a forum that night on the subject to share their opinions and get some information. The news I got was that the decision had already been made and the Coop was going to take out an $80,000 plus loan to pay for them. So a few of us who did not like the decision, nor the lack of notification and inclusiveness in making that decision, got together and arranged for a meeting with the board of the Coop. The day before our meeting we were informed by a board member that the scanners had been purchased.

That happened fast, especially since I have this feeling that not many people knew that scanners were even being considered in the first place. And an $80,000 loan, which will cost much more than that with interest, is an awful lot of money to spend without involving the membership. So myself and four others went to the board meeting to share our opinions and brought three proposals. First that the scanner decision be put off until members can get more information and make a vote. Second was to have a written policy for a process to go through before any kind of new technology is invested into at the Coop. The last was to have the next issue of the Coop Newsletter dedicated to the scanner issue so people can hear all sides, from staff to members and pros and cons. The only answer we heard that night was that the newsletter idea was not possible because there is currently, and no plans to find, an

(continued page 7)

Don Grower

Why has the Co-op purchased a new scanner system for our stores without proper notification of its membership and without the membership's involvement in the decision-making process? Every member will be affected by this decision, the ramifications extreme! A $100,000 loan from (unknown) lender to purchase high-tech equipment from (unknown) out of region (nonmember) corporation. This non-member decision will adversely affect all members, staff, and local wholesalers, as well as the exploited people and their lands that this technology depends on.

The $100,000 purchase and installation of scanners at the co-ops supports out of region corporations that have no connection to the membership or our community. When these machines break down, when new parts are needed, when repair people need to be called, when more software (and hardware) are needed later on down the line to make the whole interfacing of systems work, our money will be spent out of region.

This technology supports a system in which the 'bar-code' becomes the standard and local becomes obsolete. Local members who produce crafts, tinctures, oils, soaps, vegetables or other foods will have the door of opportunity shut that much more tightly while the large out of region corporation (non-member) will have that same door open that much wider because the scanner technology supports big business. As a local farmer selling food to the Co-op, I already feel the corporate squeeze by

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/ black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! Or you aren't submitting it!

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, <wip@olywa.net>

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Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

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The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

WIP Schedule

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Friday, August 22nd

WIP Meeting

Sunday August 24th

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(Announcements, etc. Continued page 18)

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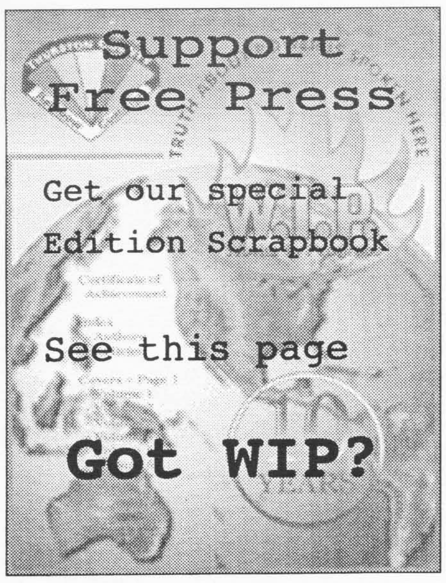

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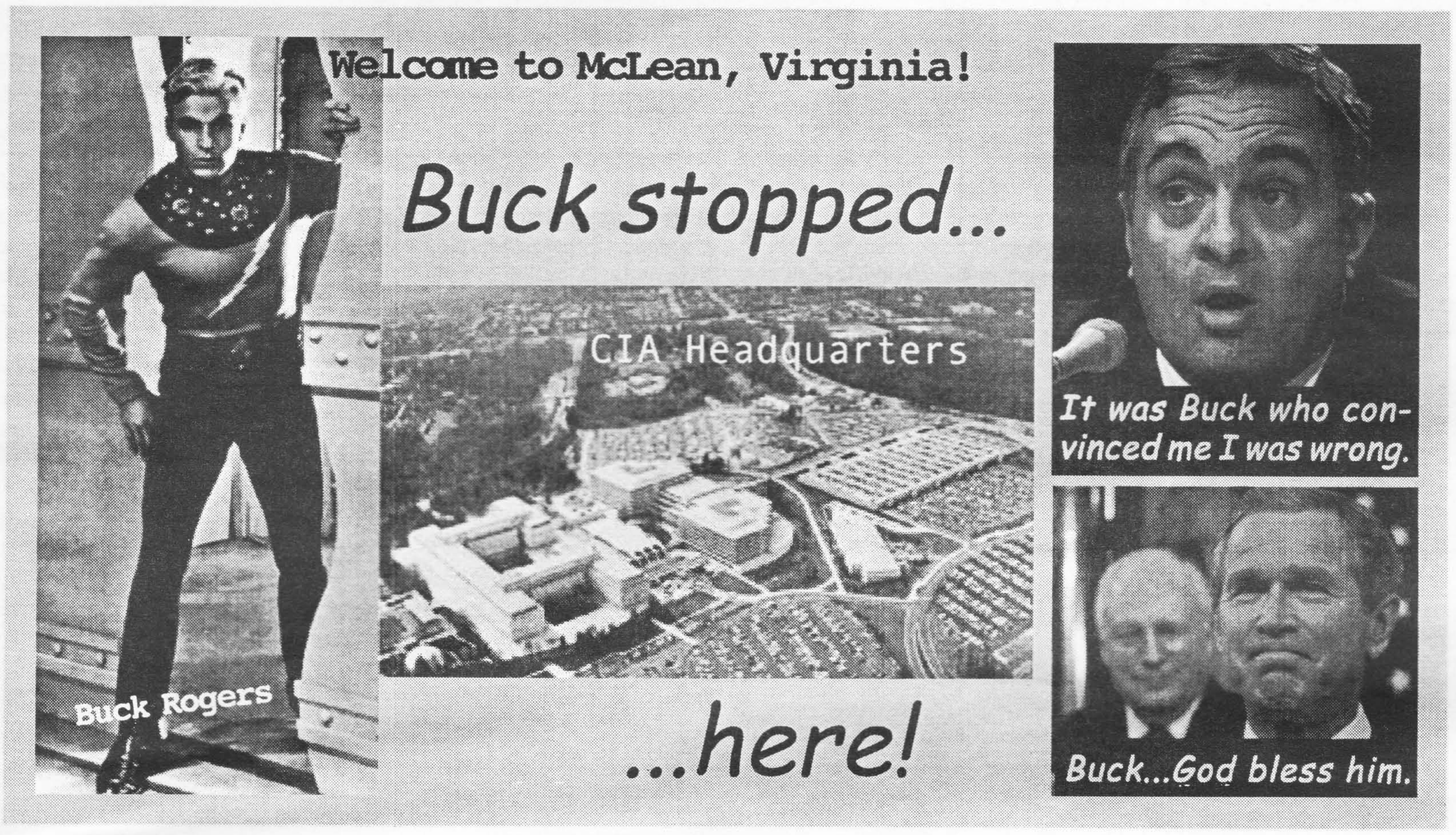
AUGUST 2003

The Official George Bush Jr "not-my-fault" postcard


Welcome to McLean, Virginia!
Buck stopped...
CIA Headquarters
...here!
Buck Rogers
It was Buck who convinced me I was wrong.
Buck...God bless him.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
In a land of wimps, the dimwit is king--such is the dismal state of post-9/11 America. **Ted Rall**		**Bush took the easy way short-term, hyped the threat, and now reaps the result--$4 billion a month indefinitely, and far too many dead Americans.** **Thomas Oliphant**			**1** 2002: Senate expands Bush's authority to negotiate trade pacts; Congress can reject but not modify trade deals	**2** 1999: Welfare rolls have dropped 40% in WA state since 1994 2002: Turkey abolishes death penalty
3 1998: Communications Workersbers vote to strike at US West 2002: Saudi Arabia, Iran oppose Iraq attack	**4** 2002: White House announces it will loan Uruguay $1.5 billion to help stabilize its economy	**5** 2002:Bush signs bill requiring that a fetus to be considered a person if it survives an abortion procedure	**6** 1996: Olympia City Council votes to table sidewalk sitting ban and referring the issue back to city staff	**7** 2002: Israel's interior minister threatens to revoke citizenship of Israeli Arabs involved in attacks on Israelis	**8** 2002: Judge dismisses Makah whaling suit 2002: Cantwell says 49-60 more FBI agents needed in WA state	**9** 2002: Pentagon announces White House in negotiation w/ nations for powers to police world's waters
10 2002: Saudi Arabia announced that Iran handed over 16 al-Qaida fighters to Saudi Arabia	**11** 2002: Bush breaks presidential fund-raising record after 19 months in office by raising $100,000,000	**12** 2002: Bush's plan to allow Americans to invest their Social Security taxes is losing support among GOP	**13** 2002: U.N. report reveals billions short of food, water 2002: American Airlines to cut 7,000 jobs	**14** 2002: Bush claims economy problems beyond his control, blames Clinton, 9/11, and corporate liars	**15** 2002: National survey shows WA state had second-highest hunger rate (5%) in US following Oregon's 6.2%	**16** 2002: Edwards' opponents Quantz, Thompson accuse him of punishing deputies who don't support him
17 2002: 1000s demonstrate in WA DC demanding reparations for 100s of years of slavery and racism	**18** 2002: Israel's Supreme Court puts temp. injunction barring army from using Palestinian civiliansas shields	**19** 2002: Citizen commission lowers recommended Thurston Co. Commissioners' raise from 20% to 7%	**20** 2002: Puerto Rican Gov Calderon criticizes US Navy announcement to resume bombing of Vieques Isl	**21** 2002: Pakistan's Gen. Musharraf unilaterally amends Pakistani constitution to grant himself sweeping powers	**22** 22, 2002: Portland police attack those protesting Bush's arrival w/ batons, rubber bullets and pepper spray	**23** 2002: Ari Fleischer tells reporters they were surprised at "level of protest" that Bush met in Portland
24 2002: Gov Ryan of IL uses anti-terrorism legislation to bar the execution of persons mentally retarded	**25** 2002: Military officials state that Nat'l Guard and reserve troops will remain on active duty for up to 2 years	**26** 2002: Appeals court bars blanket closure of deportation hearings for those targeted in post 9/11 investigation	**27** 2002: Report shows 1 in 3 WAchildren live in poverty, 3/4s of of poor families are headed by working adults	**28** 2002: Fed grand jury charge community activist Ujaama w/ 2 count of being an associate of al-Qaida	**29** 2002: The Dalai Lama criticizes the US led war on terrorism saying it will only led to more suffering	**30** 1999: Dept of Ecology says Strait of Juan de Fuca lacks reliable system for resucing stricken ships
31 1998: The Duma rejects Yelsin's premier nominee. In response,Yelsin immediately renominates him	**History has shown...many times before: a people sleepwalking into tyranny and disaster. A people lulled into a stupor by alternating currents of fear and frivolity, afraid to cast off their comforting ignorance — their willful ignorance — of the crimes being committed in their name. Afraid to face the truth, afraid to fight the lies, afraid indeed to wake up...** **Chris Floyd**					

Support Billy Nessen

Peter Bohmer

[Late Breaking News- On July 30th, as Works in Progress was going to press, Billy Nessen's trial was still in progress but drawing to a close. The prosecutor asked the judges hearing the case for a two month prison sentence for Billy Nessen.]

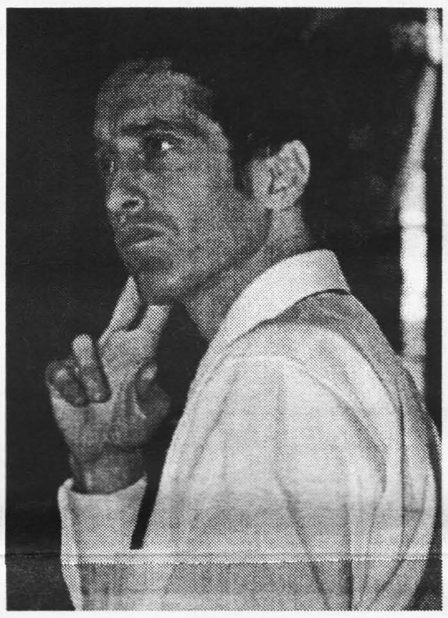
U.S. journalist, Billy Nessen, is currently on trial in Banda Aceh, the capital of Aceh province, currently part of Indonesia. Billy is on trial for two counts of immigration violations and faces a maximum of six years in Indonesian prison. At the first day of the trial, July 23rd, all of the testimony by witnesses had to do with Billy Nessen's relationship to the Free Aceh Movement, (GAM), the organization that has been fighting for the independence of Aceh for Indonesia for over 25 years. This is consistent with the threats over the last six weeks by a few leaders of the Indonesian military to put Billy on trial for directly helping the GAM or other more serious charges. However, according to Billy Nessen's Indonesian lawyer, it is unlikely that they will try him after this current trial ends for these other charges.

The four major witnesses, who testified on July 23rd, were three imprisoned members of the GAM, and Mohahammad Nazar, who leads the Aceh Referendum Information Center, which is demanding a referendum for Aceh on whether it should become independent. They all testified that Billy Nessen knew and had interviewed members of the GAM as a journalist but was not a member of the GAM and had not provided aid to them. The trial will continue on July 30th, and most likely deal more directly with the charges of immigration violations. If the three judges who are hearing the case find Billy guilty, they are likely to sentence him by August 6th.

Billy Nessen is a freelance journalist whose articles and photographs have been published by many papers including the Boston Globe, San Francisco Chronicle and papers in Australia and other countries. For many years, he has closely followed various movements working for human rights and/or for independence in Aceh. He is married to a human rights and pro-independence Acehnese activist, Shadia Marhaban. He returned to Aceh shortly before May 19th, the day President Megawati Sukarnoputri declared martial law in Aceh province and activated 50,000 Indonesian troops to crush the independence movement there. As a journalist, Billy was traveling with the GAM, which is leading the struggle for the Acehnese independence.

The Indonesian military demanded Billy Nessen surrender by June 14th, 2003. Billy requested that he be allowed to leave Indonesia without being questioned. His request was strongly supported by the Committee to Protect Journalists, an international group of journalists who support the rights of journalists to report what they see without threats or repression. During the period immediately before and after June 14th, he hid in the Acehnese jungle, which was under fierce and murderous attack by the Indonesian military. Based on his understanding of discussions between the Indonesian government, members of the U.S. government including the U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia, a leading member of the Committee to Protect Journalists and a few human rights activists, Billy Nessen believed he could turn himself in to the Indonesian military in Aceh, and then be permitted to leave Indonesia without having to give any information about his activities or about the GAM and its military wing (AGAM).

On June 24th, Billy Nessen surrendered to the Indonesian military in Aceh. They transported him to Banda Aceh. Although being treated much better than Acehnese prisoners, most of whom are systematically beaten, Billy was deprived of sleep his first few days in custody. Since then his treatment has significantly improved. While he was questioned a member of the U.S. embassy was present and has seemed to be supportive of Nessen's rights.



Police investigators completed their investigation on July 7th and forwarded Billy's dossier to the prosecutor's office in Banda Aceh. On Thursday, July 17th, Billy was charged with two counts of visa violations for being in Aceh "without securing permission from the martial law administration in Aceh". In the last year, although before martial law was declared in Aceh, two women, Lee Sadler from the United States, and Lesley McCulloch from Great Britain, served sentences of four and five months, respectively for minor visa violations because of their sympathy for the independence movement in Aceh.

The Background to Billy Nessen's case

Aceh, with a population of 4.5 million, is located at the northern tip of Sumatra, the most western island of Indonesia. Before 1945, Aceh was separate from Indonesia, although both were Dutch colonies. When Indonesia won its independence, Aceh was promised autonomy, within Indonesia. Aceh eventually became its own province but was never given the autonomy originally promised. President Sukarno, who led the Indonesian struggle for independence against the Dutch, was overthrown in 1965 in a murderous coup led by the head of the Indonesian military, General Suharto. Estimates are one million Indonesians were slaughtered by the military for supposedly being communist or pro-communist. Suharto ruled Indonesia for 33 years, he and his family amassed billions in wealth. The United States strongly supported the coup and the Suharto dictatorship.

The murderous repression by the Indonesian government did not end with the 1965 coup. In 1975, upon winning independence from Portugal, East Timor was seized and occupied by Indonesia. One third of its population was killed resisting the Indonesian annexation and occupation. Finally in late 1999, after a referendum where the population of East Timor overwhelmingly voted for independence from Indonesia, the Indonesian military left East Timor; independence became official in 2002.

In 1971, vast quantities of natural gas were found in the northern part of Aceh. Natural gas is a major source of foreign exchange and wealth for Indonesia but little of it goes to the Acehnese people. Most of the wealth goes to the Indonesian elite and to Exxon-Mobil which for 30 years has produced and sold the natural gas in a joint venture with Indonesia's national energy company. As detailed in the lawsuit filed June, 2001 in Washington D.C. Federal District Court by the International Labor Rights Fund, the Indonesian military protects Exxon-Mobil, and Exxon-Mobil buildings are used to interrogate and torture pro-independence forces in Aceh. This case, which is pending, details the close relations between one of the largest U.S. corporations and the Indonesian military.

The Free Aceh Movement (GAM) was formed in 1976. Its military wing (AGAM) has many thousands of fighters. Since its beginning, GAM has worked, struggled and fought with arms for the independence of Aceh. Beyond calling for independence from Indonesia, GAM'S ideology is vague, e.g., they have not spelled out their views on how the economy should be organized, how poverty should be addressed, the role of women, nor their position on human and democratic rights. The Indonesian government has carried out several military offensives and used extreme brutality to try to destroy GAM and the broader movement for independence. From 1989 to 1998, the latter years of Suharto's rule, Aceh was declared a military operation area, closed to foreigners and put under complete military rule. Estimates are that over 10,000 Acehnese civilians were murdered. Mass graves were found after Suharto was overthrown in 1998. Under the next two Indonesian governments, repression decreased but promises of autonomy and/or a referendum for the Acehnese people were not kept. The support for independence among the people of Aceh seems overwhelming, fueled both by the murderous Indonesian occupation and also by the poverty of the large majority of people and the lack of available social services in this resource-rich area. Many Acehnese people have been imprisoned or killed by the Indonesian government for advocating independence whether or not they have any connections to the GAM.

In December 2002, a cease-fire was agreed to by the Indonesian government and the GAM. At talks in Tokyo in April, 2003, Indonesia demanded that GAM drop its goal of independence and disband. When the GAM refused, Indonesia declared martial law on May 19th. A present, 50,000 Indonesian troops in Aceh, are waging a war that is not only against the GAM but also against the civilian population, using primarily U.S. aircraft such as F-16's. Hundreds of members of GAM have been killed by the Indonesian military although resistance continues. The numbers of murdered civilian Acehnese are unknown although likely to be close to a thousand and growing. Tens of thousands of civilians have been displaced, and hundreds of schools destroyed. Beatings, executions, rape, disappearances and torture are common. Similar to Indonesian tactics in East Timor, they are setting up para-military death squads. Favored Indonesian journalists are embedded within the Indonesian military, similar to what the U.S. did in Iraq. Independent and foreign journalists are banned. The Indonesian military does not want the world nor the Indonesian people to see the brutality they are responsible for nor the resistance by GAM and the Acehnese people. We should request the end of the Indonesian occupation of Aceh, and the end of U.S. economic and military support for Indonesia.

Although Billy Nessen had been covering the independence struggle before May 19th, 2003, after that date he became one of the only independent journalists left in Aceh, and the only one in the field with the GAM. That is why the Indonesian military has targeted him and threatened to kill him before he turned himself in. They do not want witnesses who can publicize their war against the people of Aceh.

> ***"The Indonesian military does not want the world nor the Indonesian people to see the brutality they are responsible for… That is why the Indonesian military has targeted him and threatened to kill him before he turned himself in."***

What Can be Done?

It is all of our responsibility to demand that Billy Nessen be released from detention in Aceh and be allowed to immediately leave Indonesia. We should request that he not serve any more time in detention, and that he not serve any time in Indonesian prison. To help Billy Nessen, we need to put pressure on the Indonesian and U.S. governments: the Indonesian government because they are unjustly holding Billy Nessen; and the U.S. government because it is a major supporter of Indonesia and Indonesia does not want to alienate the U.S. and lose military aid. There is opposition in the U.S. Congress to military

Cont. →

support for Indonesia. Therefore calls for Billy's release by the U.S. ambassador to Indonesia and the U.S. government are likely to get results.

An excellent source of information on the history and current situation in Aceh and Indonesia is the Indonesia Human Rights Network,

www.indonesianetwork.org/

email: kurt@indonesianetwork.org

An up to date news source on Billy Nessen's situation is the English speaking Indonesian daily newspaper, the Jakarta Post, www.thejakartapost.com

Key phone numbers, emails and faxes!

1. Indonesian Embassy in Wash, D.C.
Ambassador Soemadi DM Brotodiningrat
tel: 202 775-5200
fax: 202 775-5365
2020 Massachusetts Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20036
2. U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia
Ralph Boyce
tel: (011) 62-21 3435 9000
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ambassador@jakarta.usembassy.gov
3. Indonesia desk at U.S. State Department, Michael Heath
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4. State Department
Colin Powell, secretary@state.gov
tel: 202 647-4000
5. U.S. Senator Richard Lugar
Head of the Foreign Relations Committee
tel: 202 224-4814
email: senator_lugar@lugar.senate.gov

New Quebec Nationalism Paraded Through Montreal

Tristan Baurick

MONTREAL - Carlyle Williams is an immigrant, speaks French and English fluently, and swells with pride as he cheers a throng of people dressed as Fleur-de-lys at this year's nighttime Fete nationale parade. "I am Quebecois," Williams said. His voice is tinged with the Trinidadian lilt of his homeland and the francophone grace of his adopted city. "I believe in a separate Quebec." Williams represents a new Quebec nationalism that celebrates the multiculturalism of the present while holding tight the sovereignist pride that charged parades of the past. "I will always be seen as an immigrant but with this [parade] you see a new generation - one that is more accepting," Williams said.

It wasn't always so. Separatists vilified the province's immigrant population as recently as 1995 when the premier blamed the failed sovereignty referendum on "the ethnic vote." Any hint of past animosity is lost to Richard Li who moved to Montreal from China a year ago. "I think this is beautiful," he said as he waved a plastic Quebec flag at a line of passing conga drummers. "I love it - I feel I am a part of Montreal."

Even separatist groups took a more inclusive stance. "Don't care if you are English or Asian - just as long as you want to learn French," said Gilles Brassard who marched with about 20 other members of le Rassemblement pour un Pays Souverain. Brassard said he was galvanized by the June 21 funeral for Pierre Bourgault, one of the founders of the modern separatist movement. Brassard now wants to bring a political element back to the parade.

"This has become just a rally for its own sake," he said. "It has to be more than that." Past parades were an opportunity to express the fiery passion of the Quebec separatist movement. In 1968 demonstrators hurled rocks and bottles at Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and Premier Daniel Johnson. In 1990 thousands chanted "Canada est mort!" Constable Paul Fortin, who monitored crowds at Old Montreal's east end, said he expected a peaceful night. Over 200,000 people turned out by the parade's end. None were arrested. But the subdued character of recent parades disappoints Fortin.

"It's just another regular June 24," he said. Fortin blames the province's Liberal government for dampening the spirit of proud Quebecers. "[The Liberals] will make a few mistakes and we'll be back to political parades. Today some just want to enjoy, but I hope most are here for independence."

For Veronique Dupuis, cultural celebration trumped politics. "I used to be political, but I've cooled down a little," she said. "I'm still very proud but [that] does not mean I don't like Canada. It's just fun to be together with Quebecers and it's a great opportunity to see our artists."

In addition to big-name Quebec performers like Maud Bauchemin and Mauvais Sort, the parade featured firebreathers, jugglers and stilt walkers. A giant puppet bounced to the beat of Quebec rap. One group frolicked with glowing globes illuminating blue and yellow continents.

"These are to show that Quebec is a part of the world," said Edith Savard as she swung a globe depicting Asia and Europe. "And to show that we are proud of the various cultures we have here in Quebec."

~

Tristan Baurick is a graduate journalism student at Concordia University in Montreal. He is a former Works In Progress intern and volunteer.

Bound and Gagged

Jeff Luers

[*WIP Commentary: Jeff Luers, known as "Free", is serving a 22 year sentence in an Oregon State Prison for burning three SUVs at an auto dealership in Eugene in 2000. This is cruel and unusual punishment – a sentence beyond what most murderers serve. We should do what we can to publicize and challenge this injustice.*]

Disclaimer: This article is by no means intended to create, promote, recruit or participate in any security threat group, environmental, social or political movement and is purely for the purposes of conveying my situation here at Oregon State Penitentiary to the general public as is permissible under Oregon and US law.

On June 13, 2003 my cell was rushed by four guards. I was immediately placed in handcuffs and taken to the hole. My offense: I had written a letter to the Earth First! Journal. This 'offense' had been under investigation for 3 weeks as part of a greater confidential investigation of me, I am unsure if this is an ODOC [ed-Oregon Department of Corrections] investigation of a criminal investigation. However, based on the following, I believe it is an investigation into my 'alleged' role in the Earth Liberation Front (ELF).

I have been classified by the ODOC (Oregon Department of Corrections) as a known anarchist and member of the ELF . THE STG staff has gone on record stating that 'Luers.is an influential member of the radical ecology/animal/environmental movement. Luers was convicted for his radical anarchist activities and his conviction was condemned worldwide."

The letter I wrote to the Earth First! Journal (of which I am unsure whether it was received) was in response to two articles in the Beltane issue. In my letter, I spoke about direct action, prison and 'ratting'[ed-snitching]. The misconduct report reads: "In his letter, I/M Luers exposes his belief system in writing.(blah, blah).This type of activity is a direct threat to the safety of the public and causes serious concern for the security, safety and orderly appearance o all ODOC facilities and employees".

At my hearing on this matter, I argued that my letter was in no way STG related, that I did not mention any group nor did I encourage illegal activity. I was told that the environmental movement is a STG and that by writing my views or by being involved in environmental political, I was actively promoting and recruiting for the ELF. As a 'known STG member' anything I write about the environmental, social or political movements can and will be considered STG involvement. No distinction will be made between my past experience, views, beliefs or opinions.

I have been sanctioned to 120 days in the hole, 21 days loss of privilege upon being released from the hole and they took 100 days of good time (I can only get 15 months) pushing back the end of my first 44 month sentence from this month to October.

The prison and the state are attempting o gag me in the hopes that I will no longer speak the truth. Political dissatisfaction is steadily rising in this country as years of apathy give way to conscience and perhaps after recent events in the Bush administration, the state fears it may be losing its hold on the people.

Numerous laws have been passed in the last few years greatly reducing people's rights. Again, Congress is considering making flag burning a crime and always against protest are being encouraged. They have started in the prisons. First they will take away my voice. Next, they may take yours.

I am in need of First Amendment attorneys who can help me challenge this sanction and the others that are sure to occur. ("I will not go silently into the night"). One that can work for minimal fees or preferably, pro-bono.

I am also asking for letters as the hole is a lonely place. Due to my limited writing supplies, I can not write everyone back. But I will be doing a regular update and responding to all letters to the best of my ability on my website www.freefreenow.org .

Jeffrey Luers

http://www.freefreenow.org/ospreport.html

HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Write letters of support to Free (envelopes must contain a full name and return address)
Jeffery Luers #13797671 OSP
2605 State Street
Salem, OR 97310

2. Contact Oregon Department of Corrections Interim Director Ben de Haan and OSP Superintendent Brian Belleque. Demand that Free be immediately released back into general population.

Ben de Haan, Interim Director - ODOC
Oregon Department of Corrections
Central Administration Office
2575 Center Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301-4667
Tel: 503-945-9090
Fax: 503-373-1173

Brian Belleque, Superintendent
Oregon State Penitentiary
2605 State Street
Salem, Oregon 97310-0505
Tel: 503-378-2445
Fax: 503-378-3897

Emails may also be sent to the Department of Corrections at:
DOC.Info@doc.state.or.us

Fundraise for Free! Checks and money orders can be made out to "Howl for Freedom" and sent to Free's Defense Network, address below. Or to make a secure online donation, go to http://www.freefreenow.org

Write Free!
Jeffrey Luers, #13797671
Oregon State Penetentiary
2605 State Street,
Salem, OR 97310.

Write a letter to the Oregon Attorney General on Free's behalf. See http://www.freefreenow.org/appeal.html

Choosing Peace: A Series for the Whole Community

Glen Anderson

The *Choosing Peace* series of events and activities that blanketed the greater Thurston County area last year is being reactivated for a second annual season. A wide variety of local activists and organizations are planning dozens of opportunities for people to connect in all sorts of ways **from September 1 through mid-November, 2003**.

Successful Background:

In April 2002 the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation looked ahead and anticipated the need to offer alternative, peaceful way for the greater Thurston County community to observe the first anniversary of the September 11 attacks.

A planning meeting consisting of a mix of peace supporters began with a few ideas. The initial planners generated ideas for several peace-related activities, so we kept inviting more and more individuals and organizations to further develop our emerging vision of an entire series. The response was overwhelming! What began as a hope to have one or a few events blossomed into ***Choosing Peace: A Series for the Whole Community*** – a tremendously diverse series of **more than 80 peace-related events and activities** from late August to early November of last year.

Peace groups, religious congregations, bookstores, cafes, schools, arts groups, and a great variety of other local organizations and venues sponsored and hosted speakers, workshops, religious observances, films, music, youth activities, radio and TV programs, art exhibits, vigils, discussions, and linkages with related concerns such as race, the environment, and practicing nonviolence in our daily lives – all under the ***Choosing Peace*** banner.

We publicized the ***Choosing Peace*** series by printing and distributing 4,000 copies of a newsprint tabloid. We also posted information on websites, circulated flyers, and used other print and broadcast media – and of course promoted the series by word of mouth. ***Choosing Peace*** activities created quite a buzz, and the synergy flowing from one event to another stimulated greater numbers and diversity of people to participate in our various events. From a modest beginning, ***Choosing Peace*** quickly developed into a community-wide event – Olympia's progressive community character at its best!

Building on 2002's Success for 2003:

For 2003 we can build on what we have already accomplished. We're repeating the basic concept, inviting many of last year's organizers and sponsors to plan meaningful and interesting activities for 2003, improving on our effective publicity methods, and so forth. If **you or your organization** did something for 2002, please think of what you might do for 2003. This year's series will be strong if **plenty of new folks** also organize events or activities for 2003. To discuss possibilities or get more information, please contact Glen Anderson at (360) 491-9093 or glen@olywa.net.

You can download our helpful Activity Form and instructions from the Olympia FOR's website www.olyfor.org. When it is complete, send it to Char Simons at the address provided on the instruction page. If you have questions, discuss them with Glen before sending the form to Char.

One very important reason for 2002's success was a large, diverse and enthusiastic Planning Committee. We had members from several organizations (Olympia FOR, OMJP, Media Island, Olympia Zen Center, colleges, etc.) and individuals with special interests in youth, the environment, religion, the arts and more. Our Planning Committee made many linkages across ages, issues, interests and skills.

You certainly may organize an event or activity without serving on the Planning Committee – or serve on the Planning Committee without organizing an event or activity. Would **you** be willing to join the 2003 Planning Committee to help provide overall planning, networking and volunteer labor? Please contact Glen Anderson at (360) 491-9093 or glen@olywa.net.

The ***Choosing Peace*** series understands peace very broadly. Besides not hurting or threatening other countries, peace also deals with how we interact at the community and family levels, how we treat members of society who are economically or socially vulnerable, how we care for the environment, how we practice our religious and spiritual lives, how we imagine and plan for our futures ... There are so many roads to peace! We invite you to organize an event or activity along any of these lines at any time from September 1 through mid-November.

Alternatively, if you're already planning something that might also be construed as peace-related in this broad sense, consider sharing it with the larger community by offering it as a part of the ***Choosing Peace*** series. You retain complete control for planning your event, but we can help publicize it along with the rest of the series.

Updates and Publicity:

We'll continuously track our progress as this year's ***Choosing Peace*** series shapes up. The Planning Committee will meet as needed. In addition, a part of each regular meeting of the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP) will help plan and coordinate ***Choosing Peace*** activities. OMJP meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday evening of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Olympia Center, 222 N. Columbia, downtown. For information about OMJP contact Larry Mosqueda at (360) 866-2404 or lmosqueda@comcast.net.

As you plan your events and activities, please keep in touch with us so we can help reduce scheduling conflicts and stimulate publicity. We'd love to compile a comprehensive list of **September activities** by mid-August and a comprehensive list of **October and November activities** by mid-September. We want to publicize these through print media, broadcast media, websites (including www.olyfor.org and www.omjp.org), and other methods. The sooner you provide complete information to us, the better we can help publicize your events and activities. Please publicize the ***Choosing Peace*** series and specific activities through whatever means are available to you.

Dates to Reserve:

Here are just a very few samples of the many exciting possibilities! The Planning Committee is looking for folks to help organize and/or participate in events and activities on some of the dates listed below. Please mark these dates on your calendars:

MON SEPT 1: Depleted uranium weapons is the topic of Olympia FOR's TCTV program. It debuts at 1:30 p.m. today and repeats at 1:30 p.m. Mondays and 9:00 p.m. Thursdays throughout September.

WED-SUN SEPT 10-14: Activities related to the WTO Ministerial Conference on these dates in Cancun, Mexico

THURS SEPT 11: A commemorative event at Percival Landing, probably somewhat like last year

SUN SEPT 21: International Ceasefire Day

THURS SEPT 25: Workshops on active nonviolence

THURS OCT 2: Gandhi's birthday: Let's celebrate with a birthday party!

THURS OCT 2: "Choosing Peace" – intentionally choosing to make peace – is the topic of Olympia FOR's TCTV program. It debuts at 1:30 p.m. today and repeats at 1:30 p.m. Mondays and 9:00 p.m. Thursdays throughout September.

TUES OCT 7: Something to commemorate the 2-year anniversary of the US bombing of Afghanistan

SUN OCT 12: Children's Day at the Olympia Center will include something opposing violence

The Planning Committee also anticipates the following, but the dates have not yet been set:

§ Teach-in on technology and nuclear war

§ A film in the spirit of ***Choosing Peace*** as part of the Olympia Film Society's 20th Annual Film Festival

§ Panel and audience examining patriotism and/or the Patriot Act

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(Real Democracy, continued)

needed resources from Olympia's public services (police, teachers, etc.), benefiting only the private investors selling the idea to the Council. Another reason many are opposed to the center seems to be a general lack of democracy within the City Council, not to mention its unwillingness to cooperate with the public. It would be a wonderful display of representative democracy for the Council to bring the matter to a public vote, but that isn't likely to happen.

You see this isn't a true, or direct, democracy—it's a republic. We have an indirect, or representative, form of government—the closest thing to direct democracy in this country being the town-hall meeting popularized in New England. Interestingly enough, the word 'democracy' does not appear once in the Declaration of Independence or the Constitution. Fear of such an institution, which was viewed as little more than mob-rule, led the Founding Fathers to create a republican style of government with a representative body of legislators *elected* democratically.

The essential difference between the two forms of government lies in respect to the Law. In a republic, the Law is set in stone; no voice can be heard above it. A democracy, on the other hand, is rule by a majority and the Law can be subjected to the whim of that majority regardless of inalienable rights.

However, democracy doesn't have to be mob-rule. But in order for it to work, we have to be willing to work for it. If the Olympia City Council won't listen to our request for public approval of a conference center, then maybe they will listen to our demand for new representatives when we go to the ballot box. Are the politicians elected to serve us nothing more than puppets acting on behalf of special interests seeking to further profit margins at the expense of decency and democracy? Has populism become an instrument of corporations?

Too many questions remain unanswered. Many of those questions surround VIP's Industries, which conveniently owns the Phoenix Inns and the adjacent lot where construction is set to begin on the center. What do they have to gain from this? What do we have to lose? The projected budget for the conference center is $15 million, but a similar project in Oregon (another VIP's Industries endeavor) ended up costing $29 million. Can we expect to see the same cost overruns? Are we being misled by our elected officials? What can we do?

As the City Council has already shown, they are reluctant to establish the proper lines of communication necessary for a democratic society. Who does the City Council represent, VIP's Industries or us? It is our responsibility to hold the Council to the precepts of this great nation and ensure democracy does not die at the hands of special interests and corporations. We decide.

(Member-Owned Co-op, or What?, Continued)

Lavondar, cont.

editor; so no Coop newsletter. (I am saddened by this as well so hopefully some of us can get together to get the link between members and the Coop in print again soon!) A couple of days later we got a call from a board member and were told that scanners were still going forth as planned. He also said that there would be a technology protocol put into place for the future.

So why does the staff want computers? It was a staff decision and it is not every day that they can come to consensus on such an issue. To get their views, which vary from individual to individual, talk to them. I do want to mention and respond to some reasons that I have heard from staff personally and in a report from a couple of staff on scanners. Any quotations are from this report. One reason is better tracking of products "sales activity by category, subcategory, and individual item. This can help us make merchandising decisions that can improve the Coops margin (bottom line) quickly." Another reason is more free time since they will not be marking or marking down prices. And also less bookkeeping since it will all be computerized. Then there is accuracy, "with the scanner system, cashiers will no longer need to distinguish which category an item belongs to." Also "We feel certain that there is still a wide margin of error in the system we currently use, particularly in the frozen, bulk, and produce departments." I do not disagree that these are problems at the Coop, but with the premise that computers are the answer.

"Obviously I do not agree with the scanner idea, but if there had been genuine participation by everyone involved I would feel differently."

A computer can keep a record of products, yet everything must still be put into the computer initially. I am a local farmer that sells a small amount to the Coop, and every time we sell some produce it will have to be priced in the computer with a correlating number. And this file will have to be gone into again every time a price change occurs, which is very frequent with produce. Again from the staff's own report, "We would develop staff operating procedures and job descriptions that would support the new system." It will take lots of energy to learn the system, and to train new staff. Other systems could be set up to deal with these issues that use people as the solution and not computers. And then the money could be used to support some local folks and not be diverted out of the community into corporate hands. If there are errors in bulk, frozen, and produce currently are computers our only answer? If anything these computers will further disconnect staff from understanding and being a part of the system that will keep track of all the products.

It does break down to philosophical differences on where we want to go as a Coop. If I had my druthers our big financial expenditures would go into starting other cooperatives locally that could sell products through the Coop. This reinvestment into local production will help us build a more sustainable community and strengthen our ties to each other. It also is emphasizing more small-scale production to be sold at the Coop and a move from out of region products. I am sure there are lots of local people who would eagerly participate in projects such as these.

But the issue of the scanners is not just the decision made, but the process used to make the decision. Obviously I do not agree with the scanner idea, but if there had been genuine participation by everyone involved I would feel differently. Currently a big issue in Olympia is the convention center. Most people want a voice, a vote, in the decision. After all these will be the city's biggest financial expenditure for the next few years, and people should be able to decide where their money goes. The scanner situation is very similar, we at the Coop should be able to decide if we want to take out a loan to pay a computer company and a bank (remember the interest) or do we want to invest it locally. I remember hearing lots about alcohol and if it should be sold at the Coop; there was even a vote even if it was not binding. So next time you are in the Coop or see a board member talk with them about scanners, and how important it is for us all to be a part of where the Coop is going. Not only do we need a binding vote on the issue, but more continuity in how these bigger decisions are made at the Coop in the future.

Grower, cont.

the present system. When the scanners go in, it won't be long before the already few local producers won't be seen at the Co-op at all. It sure goes against the idea of supporting what's local.

It should also be noted that the use of the scanner system is part of a marketing system crafted to make dumber consumers. It will limit our interactions with the cashier and disconnect us from the cash cost of individual items. There won't be any need to write the price down; when you get home and look at that pound of butter, you won't find the price. It might become like a Bayview experience. Of course, as dumber consumers we won't need the bare bones connection to price, we'll just need to consume. I somehow had the notion that being a member of the Co-op, I might be groomed as a more educated consumer, not the opposite. Is that why the membership was not involved in the purchase decision?

"This technology supports a system in which the 'bar-code' becomes the standard, and local becomes obsolete."

Then there is the out of region toll far away and usually out of sight. As North Americans we represent about 5% of the world's population and consume by theft about 50% of the world's resources. The ruling elite of our country are able to extract these resources through rape, torture and murder of mostly defenseless populations around the world. The theft of resources include but are not limited to things such as oil, gold, cotton, copper, trees, water, and, of course, slaves. We participate by believing our standard of living is justifiable, "we deserve all our high-tech gadgetry because we deserve more free time - it helps ease our load." We deserve it more than others, even if our high-tech gadgetry is stained with the blood of millions who slave away for a wage we would never work for. Nor would we knowingly expose ourselves to such toxic materials as we find in the high-tech industry. That is left to people with darker skin than most of us in countries far away, predominantly done by women and children.

We support this insane behavior by not seriously questioning our behavior and in turn the Co-op's behavior in the decision to leave its members out of the process.

All technology should be questioned thoroughly in these times. It is true the co-op already has high-tech equipment like computers. Should it be questioned? It is nice that they are in the back room where 95% of us members never see them. There is not one member who will be able to escape the new scanner system if they are installed. We as members need to be in on the decision-making process.

True peace & justice issues usually revolve around class issues, the 'haves' and the 'have-nots'. If the Co-op staff and membership want to support peace & justice issues, then a truly comprehensive dialogue which would include the membership in the decision-making process to install a scanner system would take place. Is it more effective to march with signs in the streets a couple of times a year, or maybe critically question our lifestyles.

father, farmer, member
Don Grower

p.s. - this is being posted in the WIP 'cause the Co-op newsletter is defunct (according to the Board of Trustees) and no plans to get it going again.

VIC'S PIZZERIA
233 DIVISION ST NW (360) 943-8044
Ana makes a lovely vegan sauce!

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Rockway-Leland Bldg. • Downtown Olympia

A Radical Roadmap for Peace Interview with Dr. Tikva Honig-Parnass and Toufic Haddad

Jenni Minner

Although the Bush administration's Roadmap for Peace is mentioned in the mainstream media, the realities of Palestinian life are often distorted or unreported. Many Americans hear nothing about the Separation Fence (a.k.a. the Apartheid Wall) that Israel constructs, separating many Palestinians from their land, water, schools and services, thus putting Palestine under even tighter Israeli control. It is rare that Americans are able to hear critical analyses of the situation or perspectives that connect the situation to overall American foreign policy.

On July 9, 2003, I interviewed Toufic Haddad and Dr. Tikva Honig-Parnass, the co-editors of "Between the Lines," a journal that focuses on the political, economic, and social realities of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Dr. Honig-Parnass and Toufic Haddad were on a national speaking tour and spoke that night on A Radical Roadmap for Peace. Dr. Honig-Parnass is an activist, sociologist, and Jewish-Israeli feminist. She is also a member of the '48 generation, the generation that founded the Zionist project in Palestine. Toufic Haddad is a Palestinian-American who grew up in Kuwait. He lived in the United States for seven years, and then went to Palestine in 1997. He is the founder of a progressive educational center in Bethlehem. He now lives in Ramallah.

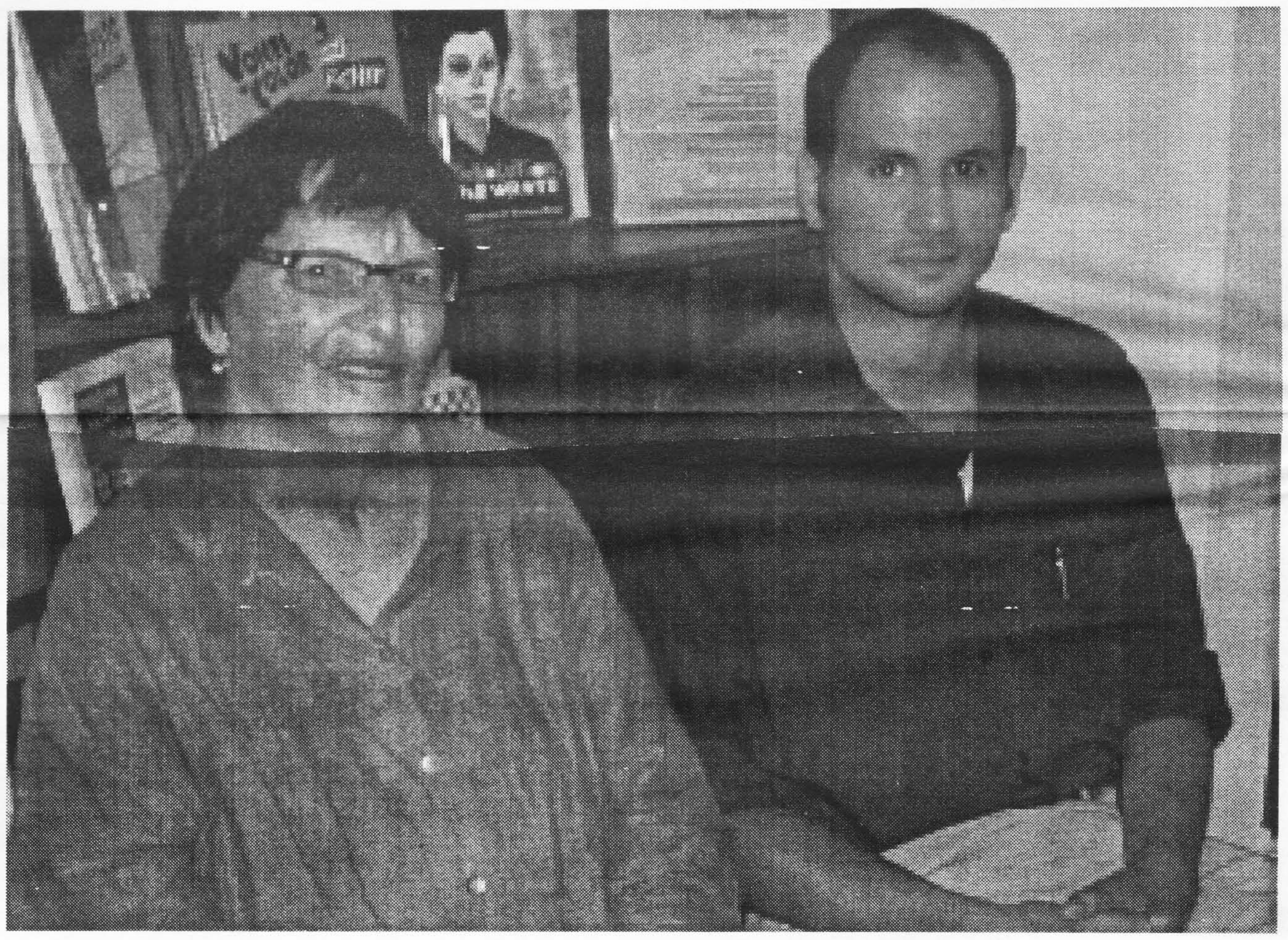
What follows are interview excerpts. I began the interview by asking them to describe the journal, "Between the Lines."

Toufic Haddad: Between the Lines comes out once every one or two months. It is in English. We try to provide a radical alternative to media coverage; analysis, information, critiques from Palestinians and Israelis who are actively involved in the struggles and who are able to connect the dots of race, national, cultural, gender, and class oppression that takes place under the Zionist regime, and their links to imperialism/the New World Order. It is distinctly different (because) it breaks down a lot of the myths of how the conflict is portrayed in the corporate media. The media coverage I've seen in the States, mainstream and even some not mainstream, is continually repeating the same absurdities that have nothing to do with what is on the ground. We try to tell people what is behind the news, particularly activists, because they need a progressive source of information about what is going on in Palestine and in Israeli society so that their activism can be well focused.

Can you talk about your perceptions of the Roadmap for Peace? How does Sharon's Apartheid Wall fit into the Roadmap?

Dr. Honig-Parnass: The first stage of the Roadmap says that proceeding to the next stage (depends) only upon conditions (fulfilled) by Palestinians and nothing about Israel. It says that the Palestinians should not only stop violence, but dismantle all of their infrastructure, i.e., community centers, schools, and services which the Israeli occupation does not provide. The second condition of the third stage is that the Palestinians stop any incitement. What does it mean "incitement?" Even talking about the occupation can mean incitement.

The main thing is not the wording of the Roadmap. One just has to look at a map to see how the occupied territories are fragmented into cantons with Israeli settlements (separating Palestinian) centers of population and the ethnic cleansing of 350,000 Palestinians who are disconnected from their cultivated areas. Look at the eastern wall that no one speaks about. Look at all this of this and even if the Roadmap will be implemented, which is far from sure… What is it going to bring the Palestinians? A small Bantustan state. Bantustan was a South African apartheid established state, a supposedly independent, black state. No one in the world even related to it as if it were independent. Palestine is like a small Bantustan state, with Israel controlling the water, and air, with an integrated economy. Who will accept this? Palestinians won't accept it.



Dr. Tikva Honig-Parnass and Toufic Haddad at the Freedom Socialist Party headquarters.
The Freedom Socialist Party was one of many groups that sponsored the Radical Roadmap for Peace presentation.

> ***"The American administration gives five billion dollars a year to Israel; US taxpayer dollars and military aid, not to mention diplomatic support, etc."***

Toufic Haddad: The Roadmap is quite clear actually. It's guised in a language of some sort of resolution, but it is very clear that the Palestinian/Israeli conflict will be solved in the context of a two-state solution, but only after the Palestinians end violence and terror. What they mean is that they want the unconditional end of the Palestinian Intifada, which is the Palestinian resistance to Israel and the Zionist project's unimpeded plans for Palestine. This plan's inception (dates back) all the way (to) 1948, where two-thirds of the Palestinian people were ethnically-cleansed, through 1967, when Israel occupied the remainder of Palestine, through the Oslo Accords in 1993, where they sought to create these autonomous zones; all through that period, the infrastructure for the Bantustan state was established... You had in Sept 2000, Palestinians rejecting the peace process as a guise behind which Israel continued to colonize and build more settlements and build more bypass roads and bulldoze more houses and arrest more people, and contain more Palestinians on less and less land. That has been Israel's policy ever since its inception.

The Intifada represents a massive rejection of this. It is not just Israel behind this plan. America is behind it very clearly. The American administration gives five billion dollars a year to Israel; US taxpayer dollars and military aid, not to mention diplomatic support, etc. The America administration knows exactly what is going on here, and you cannot look at Israeli policy as anything less than the continuation of American policy.

The Roadmap explicitly seeks to liquidate the uprising before anything else. It seeks to put back the old model which the Oslo process created and the old dynamics which are nothing less than formalizing exactly how to contain the Palestinians to continue the settlement process and to continue the paradigm whereby Palestinians are supposed to police themselves as an oppressive security force — to police anti-occupation and anti-Zionist opposition. The Intifada is about resisting that and that is why it is so important for Israel, Zionism, and America to put an end to it.

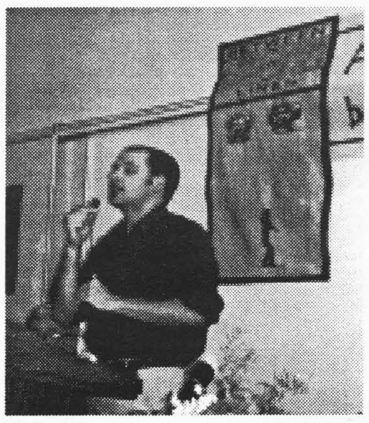
Dr. Honig-Parnass: There is a kind of a discourse that is going on in America, as if the Zionists and Jewish people here are putting pressure on America, poor America, the innocent who has no choice but to implement the powerful demands of Israel and the Jewish people. Actually it is in America's interest to crush any buds of nationalism in the Middle East. I don't have to tell you why they need it for the interests of oil, and crushing the national movement of the Palestinians and their society so that no organization will be there to start the Palestinian national movement again. Palestinian nationalism is a symbol, it is motivation for the entire population of people that are exploited by the corrupt regime and US imperialism in the Middle East; so it is joint interest, big America and big Zionist Israel in this role.

What are your opinions in terms of a viable, peaceful and just solution to the conflict?

Toufic Haddad: I think that it is actually deceiving to speak at this stage of a viable solution. It detracts attentions, energies, and thought from where we should be placing our energies and our focus; that is in the struggles on the ground. The Palestinian struggle for an end to occupation, a right to self-determination, and to return to their homes and villages from which they were expelled, are the basic issues which comprise the Palestinian national aspirations. Beneath these are a whole range of sub-issues — the fight against racism, the fight against Apartheid, the fight against Zionism, the fight against colonialism, the fight for indigenous people's rights, the fight for land for landless peasants, the fight for water. This is just within the Palestinian context, to say nothing about how Zionism is oppressing the Israeli-Jewish society.

We cannot place ourselves in the position of being a virtual negotiator. It's repeating the same mistakes that the media makes... one day the cycle of violence exists, and then tomorrow we might be able to strike the deal that will make everything peaceful. It doesn't happen that way. We are talking about systems. We are talking about deep-rooted infrastructures, economies, mindsets within which these issues are upheld, and so we have to focus on the struggles that are there. Anyone that holds progressive values can fight for these struggles because it is a long process. We are calling for a deep transformation of the entire nature of the political struggle; in historical Palestine we are fighting against the forces of what capitalism and imperialism are doing.

Dr. Honig-Parnass: We must struggle for democratization of the state of Israel, a Jewish state established by the Jews and for the Jews. A Palestinian is then a second-rate citizen, because full-citizenship is defined in religious terms. I don't want to go into the details of this camouflaged Apartheid state to which I, as a citizen of Israel, feel my responsibility to the struggle for the national rights and against imperialism because the Jewish-Zionist state is the watchdog of US imperialism in the Middle East and has been from the beginning. Under British imperialism and then US imperialism, (it) eliminated any struggle for democracy of all the people in the region. Democratization of Israel is the main target of our struggle.



"We are fighting against the racist, colonialist, apartheid state of Israel and its historical dispossession of Palestinian people."

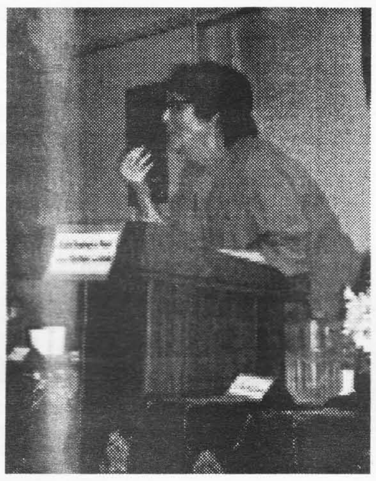
What are the prospects for recovery of Palestine's devastated economy in the future? What would it take to restore the economy there?

Toufic Haddad: Gaza, for instance, is entirely an open-air prison camp. It's 48 kilometers x 6-10 kilometers, which is a captive market for Israeli goods and goods imported by a comprador class. There is a very good book called, "The Gaza Strip: The Political Economy of Development" by Sarah Roy. Roy is an economist from Harvard and she talks about how systematically a plan was established to make sure that Gaza has no development. So it's no surprise that there is no development. It's a place where 86% of the population lives on less than $2 a day.

A Radical Roadmap for Peace
between Palestinians & Israelis

Of course, Palestinians have economic rights to live at a level where they are not suffering from malnutrition as is the case now. I think that at least one out of every three Palestinian children suffers from malnutrition. You have a massive humanitarian catastrophe. It just can't fall within the conception that we can eliminate the problem if we just alleviate the poverty of the Palestinian. It's not a question of poverty; it is a question of international political rights. They are not fighting for a loaf of bread; they are fighting for something much larger than that.

Dr. Honig-Parnass: Development is anchored in economic agreements. The Palestinian economy is integrated into the Israel's economy; most of the exports of Palestinian goods are through Israel. Most of the input is from Israel. There are clauses in the agreements that prohibit Palestinians from forming new commercial relationships with other countries unless Israel agrees to it. What we are facing is a Bantustan state with Israel exploiting the market. This is part of the plan to dissolve society; to bring it on its knees... to defeat it.



What role should people in the US or international activists play in supporting the Palestinian cause?

Toufic Haddad: Americans have a particular position that is different from the rest of the world, because America, being the primary backer of Israel, has a special role in this regard. First, a simple connection to make is the tax money that America gives to Israel on a yearly basis.

Israel controls all of historic Palestine from the river Jordan to the Mediterranean Sea and they have laid the foundation for an Apartheid regime that exists right now. You would be naïve not to acknowledge it; in fact more than naïve, you would be deliberately deceptive and deceiving people if you don't say that at this stage. Israel and the Zionist regime control all of historic Palestine; a primary objective for people is to get this message out.

The nature of what is taking place has to define the nature of how we define our struggle and so just like in South Africa. We must use all means necessary to try and fight them the way the ANC organized in Africa and that means organizing massive boycott campaigns of Israel, because how long can the supposed free and enlightened world accept the Jewish state? Are we allowed to accept other exclusivist states? There has to be a massive boycott campaign of products, goods, the country, the Olympics, etc. Our strategy has to be focused on getting the message out and defining the values about what we are talking about. We are fighting against the racist, colonialist, apartheid state of Israel and its historical dispossession of Palestinian people.

Dr. Honig-Parnass, could you talk about your experiences in the 1948 war?

Dr. Honig-Parnass: My generation was pre-'48, and when the war came and the expulsion of the Palestinian people was taking place, we were ripe emotionally and psychologically ready to do it, to be quiet about it, and not to question it. We were brought up in a culture which sees Zionism and the coming Israeli state as the supreme value which any individuality or human rights, or even class interest should be subservient to for the goal of the state and its security. This political culture has been strengthened during the years. It was embraced in the slogan of security that behind it everything can go and any human violation can go. Many people and the establishment thought that the Oslo Agreement was going to be decisive solution of the Palestinian question, but once all the assumptions of the Oslo agreement were refuted... Palestinians inside Israel are challenging the Jewish state, now you can see how this culture, which is a fascist culture, is being strengthened among what is being called progressive circles for which the idea of expulsion or ethnic cleansing became legitimate, a legitimate discourse of can we do it or not do it?

The concept of right and left when it comes to Israeli are distorted, Israeli left is pro-anti-terrorism, pro-American, nothing to do with class struggle, it is only defined in terms of peaceful solution of the conflict, but it does not recognize the root causes of the conflict and it looks at the 1967 occupied territories as the creation of the problem. But the 1967 occupied territories were only a prolongation of the unfinished rule and conquest in 1948, and the peace camp never sees the whole picture and fights against the occupation, instead of fighting for resolving the root causes in terms of doing away with a Jewish, racist state, recognizing the right of return of Palestinians, and creating a new strategy which will feed the new emerging situation which is different now as the entirety of Palestine under the control.

Toufic Haddad: Victory to Intifada!

For more information on Between the Lines, visit the website at www.between-lines.org.

Roadmap Diplomacy Conceals Israeli Apartheid Policies

Steve Niva

Having just spent nearly a month traveling in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories has led me to conclude that talk about "progress" and "momentum" regarding President Bush's peace initiative known as the roadmap is largely a deception. This view is shared not only by Palestinians but also by the majority of activists in the Israeli peace camp with whom I met during my stay.

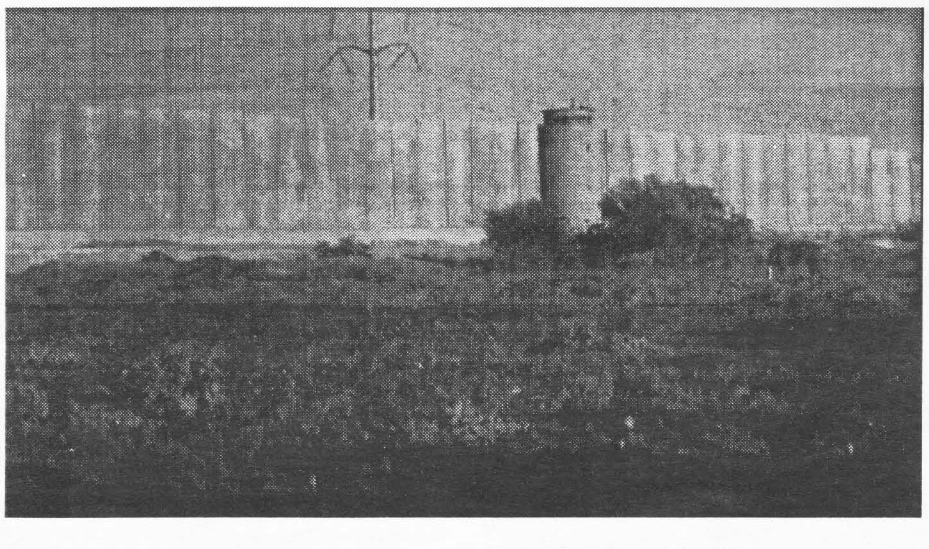
To play along with the roadmap game is to play into President Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's desire to shift attention from the ground in both Iraq and the occupied Palestinian territories toward the appearance of a peace process.

The roadmap process is little more than a diplomatic deception manufactured by the Bush administration. With soldiers killed on a daily basis and mounting questions about false pretenses for the war on Iraq, Bush desperately needs a forum to appear statesmanlike and shore up his foreign policy credentials for the coming Presidential campaign.

Likewise, it provides Ariel Sharon a platform to appear diplomatic and to enhance his recent efforts to portray himself as an advocate of peace, despite his long-standing goals of destroying Palestinian national existence and colonizing Palestinian land for Israeli settlements. Sharon knows that Bush needs a semblance of Israeli diplomacy in exchange for the Bush administration's full support for his right-wing policies.

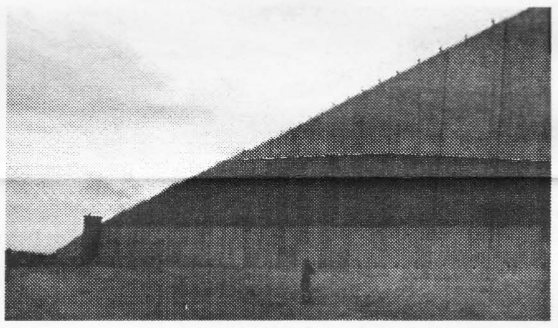
Watching the extensive news coverage of the roadmap diplomacy is like watching an Orwellian air-brushing of reality while the real story is being dropped down the memory hole. The real story is on the ground, happening daily as we speak. This reality has nearly nothing to do with White House meetings, Israeli "concessions" or anything else being discussed in the media.

The real story is the daily suffocation and delimitation of Palestinian political, economic and cultural life in an apartheid-like system of Israeli rule. This is done through a two-part Israeli strategy of cutting off all Palestinian movement from one town to another and by building a huge fence and wall around the Palestinian people that separates them from their land and water and leaves thousands more stranded outside of it. None of this has stopped for a moment during the past two months of diplomatic talks.



First, nearly every road that connects a Palestinian town to another town is either destroyed or blocked by huge gravel barriers so that Palestinians cannot drive out of their towns. Anyone who wants to travel, provided they have received an Israeli permit in some cases, must get out of their vehicle and walk over the barriers, hoping to catch a van or taxi on the other side. No supplies can pass that cannot be carried over the barrier. This state of siege has destroyed the economy and infrastructure of many towns. I witnessed a huge truck carrying supplies trying to ram one of these dirt barriers near Hebron get stuck on top, with its wheels spinning—a fitting metaphor for the Palestinian economy.

Israel says this policy of "internal closure" is for security, but it has next to nothing to do with the security of those in Israel, though it may help the 400,000 settlers inside the West Bank. Anyone determined to take a bomb to Tel Aviv, for example, could do this by walking around these barricades and finding other means to cross into Israel, as we were shown several times. The point of "internal closure" is to suffocate Palestinian society so that Palestinians will either submit to Israel's political plan for them or get so desperate that they leave. Israeli peace activists, such as the new group T'Ayyush (Living Together) have tried to address this problem by sending convoys to bring food, water and supplies to besieged Palestinian towns.



Secondly, the most startling new story in the entire West Bank is the relentless plowing and building of the new Israeli "separation barrier." In most places it is a huge fence with multiple ditches and barriers on either side averaging sixty meters wide and in some places it is actually a "Berlin Wall" with concrete walls and towers averaging twenty-feet high. Palestinians call this the "Apartheid Wall" because it is not being built on the border of the West Bank, which many would accept, but far inside it around Palestinian population centers, ensuring maximum Israeli land expansion for settlements. It is creating a series of Palestinian Bantustans that resemble those that existed in South Africa before the end of apartheid. It separates Palestinian towns from their agricultural land leaving them impoverished and isolated and could leave nearly two hundred thousand Palestinians trapped outside the barrier, cut off from their compatriots.

Again, this "separation barrier" has very little to do with Israeli security, but everything to do with securing more land for Israeli settlements. It is a political attempt to fence in the Palestinian people into tiny areas, roughly fifty per cent of the West Bank, and compel those outside the fence to either leave or move behind the barrier, ethnically cleansing more land for Israeli settlements. Not only are walls and fences ultimately unable to stop those who really want to commit terrorist actions, for they always find another way. But the brutal and unjust nature of the placement of this barrier guarantees more hatred and desire for revenge against Israel. In effect, Israel is trying to fence in a nation and suffocate their national existence, a recipe for further bloodshed. Both Israeli and Palestinian activist groups have taken the lead in raising awareness about this frightening prospect.

> ***"Watching the extensive news coverage of the roadmap diplomacy is like watching an Orwellian air-brushing of reality while the real story is being dropped down the memory hole."***

Taken together, these two policies amount to a process of further institutionalizing an apartheid system, plus ethnic cleansing. Both are at work. The Israeli sociologist Baruch Kimmerling, in a new book, has labeled this unique set of policies promoted by Ariel Sharon and his right-wing allies "politicide." By politicide he means a process that has as its ultimate goal the dissolution of the Palestinians existence as a legitimate social, political and economic entity with national rights. This process may also but not necessarily entail their partial or complete ethnic cleansing from the West Bank and Gaza strip and is primarily aimed at destroying and disrupting the public and personal spheres of Palestinian life in order to get them to accept Israeli dictation or to leave altogether.

Contrary to the image of moderation that he has so assiduously - and effectively - cultivated these past two years, Sharon remains single-mindedly committed to preventing the emergence of a viable and independent Palestinian state. Sharon learned during his first term of office not to reveal his true intentions in the face of an American president, particularly one already inclined to give him the benefit of the doubt. Instead he has missed no occasion to declare his support for President Bush's vague "vision" of a two-state solution, even as he intensifies settlement activity and builds a wall that assures the defeat of such a vision.

It may seem puzzling that the new Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmud Abbas, known as Abu Mazen, has so strongly embraced the roadmap deception. But one look at the overwhelming balance of power stacked against Palestinians and the immense suffering of Palestinian people helps one understand why he feels he has no choice but to submit. He understands that the Iraq fiasco has put Bush under some pressure and hopes that jumping through Bush's hoops will result in at least a partial Israeli withdrawal from some Palestinian towns, a prisoner release of some magnitude and pressure on Israel to dismantle some new settler outposts. Any one of these would allow Abu Mazen to remain in power, at least in the short term.

Most importantly, it would give a boost to Palestinian proponents of the roadmap and help marginalize the militant groups who only gain from Palestinian suffering and pessimism. It would give the Palestinian government the strength it needs to move forward in dismantling the militant groups that have inflicted so much damage on Israeli civilians through their criminal and brutal suicide bomb attacks.

But while one can take some hope that at least President Bush and his National Security Advisor Condoleeza Rice have raised objections to Israel's "separation barrier" and have asked that Sharon make some concessions on issues of importance to Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmud Abbas, it is important not to believe that this will lead to anything of substance.

In the next weeks or months we should expect Sharon to announce that he will release some more prisoners, remove some roadblocks and will consider withdrawing forces from some Palestinian towns. It will be token gestures.

No doubt CNN and Fox News will be there to broadcast in detail and hype these moves as "painful concessions" by Israel. But the real story, the ongoing apartheid policies and the politicide against the Palestinian people, under the cover of the roadmap diplomatic process, will not be televised.

~

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The Making of a Police State/ Disappearing Civil Liberties: it's time to use them or lose them.

Allen Thompson

In the United States, fear permeates what passes for news in the mainstream media. It is the stock-in-trade of George W. Bush and many other politicians. The dangers of violence, drugs and terrorism are brought up cynically over and over again to justify a multitude of repressive changes, and the massive assault on civil liberties the Bush administration started in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks is proceeding at an alarming rate. Not content with the increased spying powers, ability to detain non-citizen immigrants without cause, and broadened definitions of terrorism gained from the original Patriot Act, Bush's minions have recently drafted an ominous new security bill that makes its predecessor look almost mild.

Meanwhile, new legislation targeted against youth culture has already sneaked through Congress. Police are blatantly disregarding the rights of antiwar protesters. Actors, entertainers and writers who speak out against U.S. foreign policy are encountering McCarthy-like reprisals. Furthermore, provisions of the color-coded security alert system decreed by the Department of Homeland Security can be used to impose martial law. It is crucial that everyone who cares about political freedom and the Constitution do everything possible to stop this police state in the making. And the first step toward getting involved is getting informed.

> ***"The dangers of violence, drugs and terrorism are brought up cynically over and over again to justify a multitude of repressive changes, and the massive assault on civil liberties the Bush administration started in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks is proceeding at an alarming rate."***

The Patriot Act, Volume Two: worse than the first.

Someone working in the Department of Homeland Security has a conscience. Early this year, this unknown person leaked a copy of Attorney General John Ashcroft's new proposed security bill to Charles Lewis, executive director of the Center for Public Integrity. On February 7, Lewis published the 86-page document at www.publicintegrity.org, the website of the center. The proposed "Domestic Security Enhancement Act of 2003" is a handbook for tyranny. Here are just two of its worst features: Section 501 would enable the government to strip a citizen of his or her citizenship if she or he "becomes a member of, or provides support to, a group that the United States has designated as a 'terrorist organization,' if that group is engaged in hostilities towards the U.S." If this provision becomes law, the implications will be staggering for activists doing any kind of support work for groups internationally who are resisting domination of their countries by the U.S.

Section 201 is called "Prohibition of Disclosure of Terrorism Investigation Detainee Information." This portion was drafted in response to a court ruling against the existing Patriot Act, which has been used since 9/11 to covertly detain more than a thousand Arab or Muslim U.S. residents. Section 201 explicitly legalizes secret arrests and prohibits anyone from publicizing them. In many parts of the world there is a term for this: it is called a disappearance. The new bill would also give federal cops vast new wiretapping powers. A line-by-line analysis of the legislation can be found at www.aclu.org/SafeandFree/SafeandFree.cfm?ID=11835&c=206. A broad overview is located on the online encyclopedia Wiki-pedia at www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domestic_Security_Enhancement_Act_of_2003.

> ***"In many parts of the world there is a term for this: it is called a disappearance"***

Code Red opens door to martial law.

A couple of days before the bombs started falling on Baghdad this March, a post on the Indymedia main website detailed how martial law can be imposed under "red alert," the highest stage in the terrorism readiness system. Tom Baldwin reported for the Gannet State Bureau on a briefing given by Sid Casperson, director of New Jersey's office of counter-terrorism.

"Red means all noncritical functions cease," Casperson said. "Noncritical would be almost all businesses, except health-related." He elaborated, "The state police and emergency management people would take control over the highways." This means "you literally are staying home ... you must adhere to the restrictions announced by the authorities." Commenting on this article, other Indymedia website users pointed out how Hitler turned Germany into a dictatorship through decree. Activists should be prepared for the possibility that the government may use Code Red to establish martial law in response to militant labor strikes or Seattle WTO-style protests.

Popular and youth culture criminalized.

On April 10, Congress passed the Illicit Drug Anti-Proliferation Act, formerly known as the Rave Act. Having been unable to pass it on its own, Joseph Biden smuggled it through the legislature attached to an unrelated child-protection measure, the Amber Alert Bill. Now, event promoters and organizers are legally liable when anyone attending their events is arrested for drug possession. This is true even if the promoters have made a good-faith effort to search their patrons for drugs.

First proposed as a means to stop the use of the drug ecstacy at rave parties, it remains to be seen how broadly this bill will be applied. By its wording, it could be used against a vast array of music concerts, cultural blowouts and political rallies. Anything from Folklife celebrations and the Burning Man festivals in Nevada to hempfests and rock concerts may be targeted, exerting a potent chilling effect on an even wider range of events.

The Drug Policy Alliance, at http://actioncenter.drugpolicy.org/action, is a great source for information on this issue.

Protest to the fore.

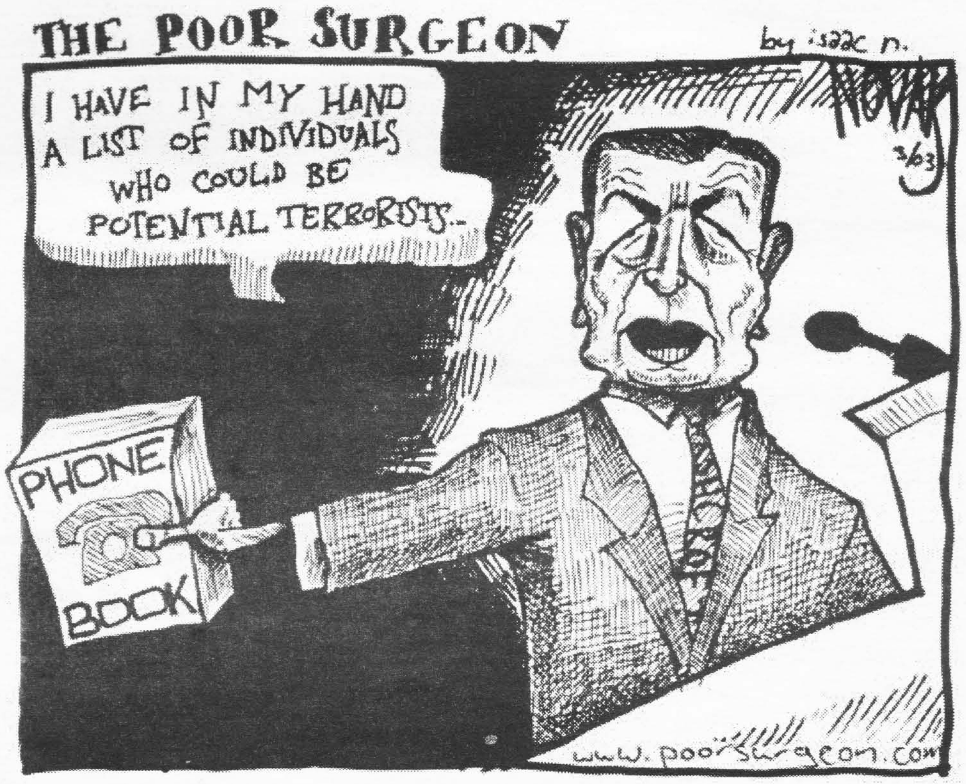
The attacks on civil liberties are intended to stifle dissent and thereby give the government a freer hand in carrying out its drive for unlimited power, both abroad and domestically. Fortunately, resistance is very much alive.

As of mid-May, 105 cities or counties and two states, Hawaii and New Mexico, had passed resolutions condemning the Patriot Act. Arcata, California went so far as to create a law prohibiting city officials from cooperating with any Patriot Act provisions that violate constitutional rights.

A national coalition has come together to repeal the Patriot Act and stop similar measures. Its website is www.shamon.com/repeal/newsletter.html.

Library workers around the country are in revolt against the Patriot Act's green light for spying on the reading and buying habits of library and bookstore patrons. Some are posting warning notices, and some are disposing of lending records in short order. "We bought a nice new shredder," said librarian Cindy Czesak of the Paterson Public Library in New Jersey.

Perhaps most heartening, antiwar and social-justice actions are continuing in spite of the police repression they face in many areas. Websites such as www.indymedia.org, www.zmag.org/weluser.htm, www.commondreams.org, and www.socialism.com are key sources for news about these activities and needed antidotes to the paranoia-inducing mainstream media. Building a strong, diverse, and knowledgeable mass movement will ensure that neither police-state repression, or McCarthyite scare tactics will stop the struggle for a better world.


THE POOR SURGEON
by isaac n.
NOVAK
3/03
I HAVE IN MY HAND A LIST OF INDIVIDUALS WHO COULD BE POTENTIAL TERRORISTS..
PHONE BOOK
www.poorsurgeon.com

~

Guest writer Allen Thompson, a longtime socialist, was a participant in the Seattle WTO protests, the 2000 Nader campaign, and recent antiwar activities. This article originally appeared in the Freedom Socialist newspaper.

Medea Benjamin In Tacoma

Holly Gwinn Graham

Just back from Iraq for Global Exchange, Medea Benjamin, co-founder of United for Peace and Justice, addressed United for Peace of Pierce County on July 15. The First Methodist Church was filled for the occasion.

Medea thanked people for their commitment to local communities that are the basis for global community.

"Hopefully we are waking to the lies we have been told that led to preemptive war. We witnessed Bush taking us there, and now we are seeing the unraveling of those lies. At last, the Democrats are asking real questions... What is happening in Iraq? What is happening in Afghanistan?" said Benjamin.

Benjamin said in both countries, Rumsfeld and the Department of Defense claimed there were "negligible casualties." "In truth, thousands were killed... and life is no better for the inhabitants."

"There is no Marshall Plan in Afghanistan now that 'the evil Taliban' is defeated. Bush promised $80 billion in 2003 towards rebuilding Afghanistan. So far, he has sent nothing. Congress has, out of a sense of shame perhaps, allocated $300 million, a nothing amount. This administration will spend billions to kill, but nothing to rebuild. There is no security in Afghanistan, no government beyond Kabul. The American people have no idea what is going on there."

Returning to the situation in Iraq, Medea reminded the crowd that the United States built up Hussein's dictatorship, selling him weapons during the war with Iran that resulted in thousands of Iraqi deaths, and an estimated 5 million deaths in Iran.

Medea laid out what happens in a country when "liberation" comes from outside, and when the people of that country are not considered.

"Modern US weapons are so scary that the Iraqi army did not resist. Radio and leaflets said 'Don't fight, let us come and help you free yourselves.' Who toppled Saddam? The people of Iraq did. They did not fight back when invading troops appeared. They won the war for us."

"There is also no electricity, no clean water, no jobs, and no security. People are asking what happened to the promise of better lives. Why is there no electricity?"

Occupying US forces promptly disbanded the standing Iraqi Army, ended the police force, and fired Bathist party members who had, for the last 30 years, run the country for Hussein.

"Now, Iraq is in utter chaos. There is no air transport into the country. Everyone travels in by land... a grueling trip from Amman, Jordan to Baghdad that takes 11 hours and is so riddled with bandits Iraqis call it The Land of the Ali Babas. Drivers going through this stretch have learned to floor the accelerator and go 120 mph to avoid real trouble."

Entering Baghdad, remnants of war are everywhere... burned out homes, tanks and buses. Thousands were killed, says Medea, but there has been no official Pentagon count.

Everywhere she saw ruined buildings, gutted ministries... all but the oil ministry, which is protected by occupying forces.

"It is easy to see priorities here, isn't it? The US military encouraged bombing, looting and burning, but Iraqis say Kuwaitis, getting revenge by burning the ministries, have done it.

"The infrastructure of Iraq is devastated. There are no phones, no telecommunications systems, no rebuilding of support systems for civilian uses. Contrast this to the presence of MCI, bankrupt in this country and charged with fraud, operating out of the palace in Baghdad, giving free satellite phones to the international community while Iraqis can't call across town or to a neighboring village. These are Westchester, New York phone numbers, too.

"There is also no electricity, no clean water, no jobs, and no security. People are asking what happened to the promise of better lives. Why is there no electricity?"

Baghdad is a city of 5 million people who used to lead middle class lives. They had electricity, businesses, restaurants and public services even during 13 years of sanctions. Now they have nothing.

Temperatures are 110 - 120° everyday with no air conditioning, no fans, no water pumps, and no clean water. Sickness abounds. Unable to sleep, civilians of Baghdad are like walking zombies, and they are angry. Ironically, they cannot pump gas without electricity, either, so there are mile-long gas lines in the sweltering heat.

"The invasion forces promised jobs but did away with the only trained workforce available, the Bath party. They call this DeBathification... no members of the Bath party are eligible for employment. The catch is that in Hussein's government, you had to be a member of the Bath party to hold a job. Now, there are 5 million people out of work, the very people who could rebuild the country. They aren't being asked, and they are outraged. There are no salaries, no professionals working in any capacity so far in the occupation.

"As for security, the newly created police force formed by occupation forces has no weapons, no uniforms, and no salaries! They do have dog tags that identify their occupations, names, and ranks, but the tags are in English! The new Iraqi police force doesn't know what their tags say. What arrogance this exhibits!

"The chaos is complete in Iraq. There are no traffic lights, constant crime, constant banditry, and unarmed cops who run from the armed Ali Babas. Businesses are looted, cars stolen, women live in fear of being robbed, or (something new in Iraq) raped. Prostitution, drugs are new to Iraq... welcome to three months of US liberation in the 'New Iraq'.

"Iraqis have been lied to. Without change soon, many declare they will take up guns in revolt.

"US troops are scared. They don't speak the language. They're jittery, shot at 25 times a day. They stand duty 12 hours a day in devastating heat suffering in full battle gear. Inside one of those uniforms the temperature can reach 130°. They ask, 'When are we going home?'

"This administration will spend billions to kill, but nothing to rebuild. There is no security in Afghanistan, no government beyond Kabul. The American people have no idea what is going on there."

"Most of them are reservists, not trained for occupation. They fire indiscriminately when they hear gunfire. It's a vicious cycle, fear on both sides.

"It is a quagmire. There is no US strategy for rebuilding Iraq. The new handpicked council can be overridden by Paul Bremer's veto. Still, this coalition has laid down some priorities: reestablish businesses, rebuild factories, employ the people, and restore services.

"Right now, the whole country is being looted. Borders are open, there are no tariffs, and factory machinery and equipment disappear over borders unstopped by US forces. All the money to rebuild is going to out-of-country corporations like Bechtel, MCI and Halliburton, not to Iraqis. Bechtel has a $680 million contract to rebuild Iraq, with no disclosures required.

"Still, Iraqis look for hope, having endured three decades of Saddam, 13 years of sanctions, two invasions, and regular bombings."

In the face of all this, Global Exchange has set up Occupation Watch Center (*occupationwatch.org*) putting pressure on the US to give jobs and oil profits to Iraqis.

"The US spends $4 billion a month supporting this occupation, but Americans see cuts on local, state, and national levels. War spending and $350 billion tax cuts to the rich are devastating our economy."

A Green Party member and cofounder of Code Pink for Peace, Medea promised outrageous, funny, and right-on feminist actions to stop Bush's reelection.

"Bush's global policies glorify money and greed. *Our* world is based upon love, compassion, and kindness. There are two super powers... the USA and the global world community. We will not be stopped!"

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It is Time for Bush to be Held Accountable

Sometimes Even the President of the United States Has to Stand Naked

Ron Jacobs

July 13, 1973. This was the day that the US public found out about the audiotapes then President Nixon was making in the White House. Alexander Butterfield, the White House appointments secretary, revealed under questioning by the Senate Watergate Committee that Tricky Dick recorded every single conversation and telephone that occurred in his office.

This began an intense legal battle between the White House, Congress, and the special prosecutor as the latter two fought to gain access to the recordings. Eventually, over the next year and only because of legal pressure from Judge John Sirica, Nixon released bits and pieces of the tape collection, minus an unexplained 18 minutes.

Every day the American public was treated to a new lie in regard to the tapes and their contents. Finally, on July 24, 1974, the Supreme Court voted 8-0 (with Rehnquist abstaining) and ordered Nixon to hand over the entire collection.

In August 1974, Nixon left the White House in disgrace. He didn't go easily. Indeed, it was only after he was essentially forced to give up the final tape-the smoking gun that proved he was involved in the cover-up from the beginning-that his downfall began. Despite the expressed opinions of the media talking heads, this series of events did not revive American democracy, which was a dying fish long before that, but it did give the system a chance to get back in the water.

Unfortunately, it continues to flap around in a near-death state. The Supreme Court helped its death throes immensely when they handed George Bush the stolen goods known as the 2000 election.

July 9, 2003. Almost thirty years later, the press reports that Bush knew he was presenting fabricated evidence to the American Congress and people to justify an attack on Iraq. This evidence was a false document that "proved" that the government of Iraq was trying to buy nuclear grade uranium. This document was a complete forgery. A COMPLETE LIE! Yet, Bush brazenly appeared before the public and challenged the people in this false democracy to do something about it. I wonder if we will.

> ***"This forgery is evidence of a conspiracy by individuals known and unknown to attack a sovereign nation, offer up our sons and daughters, kill innocent civilians, destroy a country and its infrastructure, and steal billions from the US treasury in the name of defense."***

This forgery and the continued failure to find any kind of weapon of mass destruction in Iraq is an indication of something much more sinister than a government lying to its people so they will send their children to war. That is sinister enough and should be reason to send Dubya back to his ranch.

This forgery is evidence of a conspiracy by individuals known and unknown to attack a sovereign nation, offer up our sons and daughters, kill innocent civilians, destroy a country and its infrastructure, and steal billions from the US treasury in the name of defense.

It is not merely a miscommunication between government agencies or a mix-up in terminologies.

It is not something that one government agency can blame on another and hope that we forget about it.

It was not an oversight or a mistake.

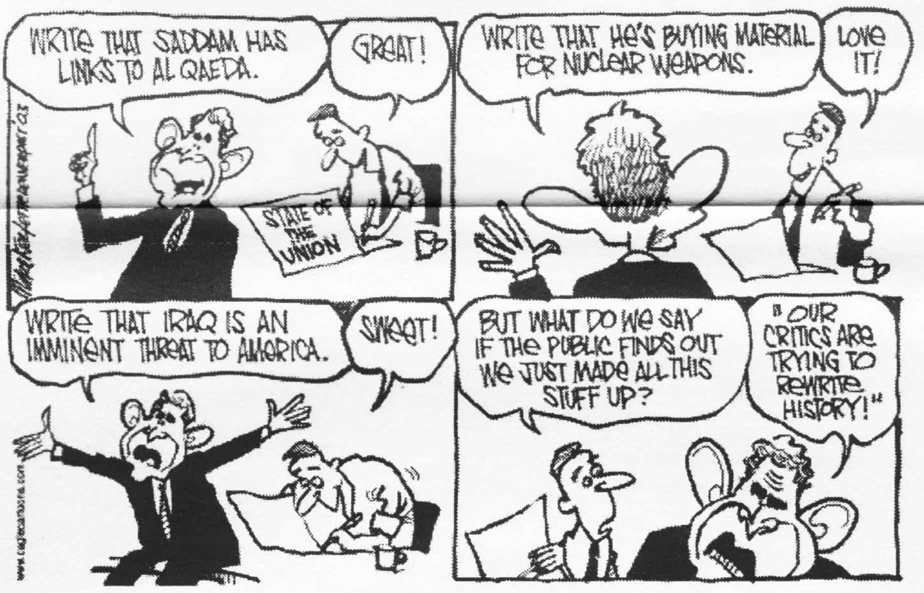
It is not an omission that we should get over and move past.

It is evidence of a conspiracy to deceive the people of this country that is evolving into a cover-up designed to maintain that deception.

Tricky Dick went down for something similar. Just as in the wake of Watergate, the American public is being treated to a new lie every day regarding the "evidence" we were provided regarding Iraq's weaponry and connections to international terrorism. In short, there is no evidence, only the wishful thinking of a group of power-hungry men and women who have the combined morals of Adolf Eichmann and Wayne Gacy. They do not see human beings, only numbers, with most of those numbers having to do with profits.

The more cynical among us might ask—so what, doesn't every president lie? Of course they do, but why should we accept that as okay? Why should we continue to excuse behavior in our officials that we would consider inappropriate for a five year old child? It is time that this administration is called to task for its deception, theft, and murder.

Ron Jacobs is author of The Way the Wind Blew: a history of the Weather Underground.


WRITE THAT SADDAM HAS LINKS TO AL QAEDA.
GREAT!
STATE OF THE UNION
WRITE THAT HE'S BUYING MATERIAL FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS.
LOVE IT!
WRITE THAT IRAQ IS AN IMMINENT THREAT TO AMERICA.
SWEET!
BUT WHAT DO WE SAY IF THE PUBLIC FINDS OUT WE JUST MADE ALL THIS STUFF UP?
"OUR CRITICS ARE TRYING TO REWRITE HISTORY!"

PI Opinion

Kyle Smith

There has been an unfortunate trend in reporting on the people of Iraq. Iraqi civilians are being trivialized; their claims of injustice are being downplayed.

The trend is subtle and this is where the problem lies. Take for example Hamza Hendawi's July 7th article in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (available online at www.seattlepi.com) about house raids conducted by the US military. Who are the two Iraqis interviewed? One is a religious leader and lecturer at a university; all fine and good. The other is a retired civil servant, perhaps an educated man and good source. But he is described as being "from Samarra, a stronghold of Saddam supporters… and a frequent target of U.S. raids." Now the source is trivialized. This subtly suggests that he might be a Saddam loyalist all riled up because his city is being raided.

Take also Jim Krane's July 7th article, also in the PI, about the opening of two new U.S.-backed city councils in Iraq. We get yet more L. Paul Bremer quotes about how badly those Iraqis need democracy as well as a quote from Joe Rice, council advisor. Notice what's missing? As the article is primarily concerned with Iraqi government, shouldn't we hear from at least one Iraqi? Not even from the questionable New York Times staples, man with gun and anonymous civilian? It is irresponsible to deny an Iraqi voice when it comes to talking about the Iraqi government. The message we receive from this debasing of Iraqi sources is that they don't matter when it comes to rebuilding their country. It's lucky the brown people have us to lead them to civilization, it says between the lines, intention or not. This is not an overstatement. It is a dangerous idea conveyed as a result of simple omissions and descriptions that discredit Iraqi sources.

Hendawi's article provides ample evidence, though we can see it in nearly every article about Iraq. Hendawi spends the first part of the article discussing the soldiers' complete lack of cultural understanding exhibited and brute force exercised during these raids: soldiers kicking down doors screaming and swearing, handcuffing the man of the household in front of his family, women and children in fear. We are shocked and dismayed reading this. A useful primer on Iraqi custom regarding entrance of the home follows; so far, so good. Major Aguto then admits his men are sometimes "forceful." After the quote, Maj. Aguto and his "forceful" men are described as operating "in al-Anbar province, scene of the worst violence against U.S. forces." Hendawi is justifying their actions. It suggests the soldiers are simply reacting to the stress of their situation during the war. This is no valid excuse. Why are they kicking down doors and violently raiding these houses when more culturally appropriate and less severe alternatives can be implemented?

Maj. Aguto goes on to say that "when the use of force was unnecessary," the families were calmed and candy was given to the children. To realize the absurdity of this excuse, imagine this: you've been living under sanctions, the results of which means you've had little or no access to clean water because most treatment facilities have been bombed, food has been at best scarce and hardly nutritious, electricity comes and goes but mostly goes, and half a million of your country's children have died, mostly from treatable diseases during the last thirteen years. Now, soldiers from the country who imposed the sanctions, after more bombing and an invasion, are now looking for weapons and choose your house to search. The man of the house is handcuffed by foreign soldiers screaming in their native tongue while kicking down your doors. They don't find anything. They offer calming words and some Tootsie Rolls to junior and then leave. Would this be satisfying to you? Would this erase your anger and fear? Admittedly, carrying out repairs to these houses is a nice gesture and good step. However, we sit back half a world away in safety wondering why the Iraqi citizenry is mad at us. No amount of housework or candy will repair the emotional damage done and trust lost in the American occupation force by the very people whose country we will "restore."

Plowshares II Nun Speaks In Olympia Before Returning To Colorado For Federal Sentencing

Holly Gwinn Graham

Dominican nun and Plowshares II activist Jackie Hudson spoke at Traditions Fair Trade Cafe on July 14, sponsored by the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation and the local chapter of The Global Network against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space.

The Plowshares disarmament movement was co-founded by the late Philip Berrigan of Jonah House in Baltimore, taking its name from the second chapter of Isaiah: "They shall beat their swords into plowshares...nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." Since 1980, the movement has become international.

Nearly 100 people came to hear Jackie Hudson's powerful story of peace activism and to learn of the trial she and her colleagues Ardeth Platte and Carol Gilbert faced under Bush-appointed neophyte federal judge Robert "Bobby" Blackburn in Denver.

After symbolically disarming a Minuteman III nuclear missile silo in Greeley, Colorado with ball-peen hammers and their own blood, the sisters were found guilty in April of "injuring US defenses and federal premises." Judge Robert Blackburn, this trial his *second* case on the federal bench, wore a red bow tie while disrespectfully obscuring justice, refusing four jury requests to clarify the charges during the proceedings. It is in his court that Jackie, Carol, and Ardeth will have received sentences on July 25 that may mean five to eight years of federal incarceration.

Refusing bond, the sisters remained in jail in solidarity with their fellow women inmates for seven months. Then, Jackie, Carol and Ardeth took the advice of counselors and loved ones and left jail in May on their own recognizance to tie up personal affairs, give possessions away, and say farewell to friends. While in jail, they had grieved the passing of their longtime friend, noted Plowshares Activist Philip Berrigan of Jonah House in Baltimore, who died in December. Carol and Ardeth returned to Baltimore, Jackie to the Northwest.

At 68 years old, Jackie has severe asthma. She does not expect to outlive a sentence of five years, so this time of freedom was poignant, blessed, busy and joyful. She brought encouragement everywhere she went.

With her were copies of thousands of letters that have poured in from every continent supporting the action. News coverage has also appeared in all major media, largely because the trial itself was so bogus and unjust.

For twenty-five years, Jackie taught music, and was active with the Farmworkers' Union in Michigan. After hearing Australian physician Helen Caldicott speak on the nuclear menace facing the world, her life changed. She joined nonviolent direct actions at air force bases housing and developing nuclear weaponry, did actions at the Nevada Test Site and in D.C.

In 1994, when Michigan was declared a nuclear-free state, she decided it was time to come west.

For ten years she led the Ground Zero/Resist Trident movement at the Trident base in Bangor, where 8 lethal nuclear-missile-carrying submarines, each capable of ending all life on earth, are berthed. Nuke-happy Bush Jr. has ordered upgrades to these missiles.

"I will continue to resist with every fiber of my being so that not one child will ever ask, 'Why were you complicit?'"

Jackie believes most Americans are generally unaware that in our own Constitution, ***Article 6, Section 2 states that any treaty signed by the US is to be regarded as a supreme law of the land. All state, national and federal judges must abide by such treaties according to law, but none ever has.***

The Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, signed by all nuclear super-powers in the '70s, was abrogated in June 2002 by W. It makes the mere possession of nuclear weapons a crime against international law, and threatening to use them contravenes the highest laws of the earth.

The nuns' mission, inspecting, exposing, and symbolically disarming one of these weapons of mass extermination situated between Interstate highways I-76 and I-35 was a success in the grand Plowshares tradition.

"Hammers and blood make it real," Jackie said. "Hammers tear down what we don't want and build up what we do want. Our blood represents innocent blood shed by using these weapons."

After the action, when the military police finally arrived, Jackie recalled it got a lot like a basketball game: shouting, confusion, traffic snarled on the access roads as FBI, bomb squads, the Sheriff, and Intelligence Servicemen arrived.

"Hammers and blood make it real. Hammers tear down what we don't want and build up what we do want. Our blood represents innocent blood shed by using these weapons."

"Their own military Humvees did the damage at the gate and fence," Jackie stated, "crashing through what we had carefully cut... and so much for their binoculars. We learned their first radioed descriptions of us said three 6' men, one with a mustache!" The women, none over 5'5" tall, were handcuffed and held facedown on the ground before being taken to the local jail.

Colorado is the home of giant space contractors and nuclear weapons developers and US Space Command. Military or weapons contractors employed *all* jurors chosen to hear the sisters' case. One man, a National Public Radio listener, was denied a seat in favor of those who regularly listened to Rush Limbaugh and read the series Left Behind.

"It was impossible," said Jackie, "to find a jury of our peers."

Those uninformed jurors, with no clear idea of the charges, brought in the guilty verdict since no defense was allowed during the trial.

Will their case discourage others from direct action? "The prosecutor actually said this would be a deterrent for this movement and us." Jackie said.

Nevertheless, actions have not ceased all over the world. On July 26, vigils, affinity group actions, prayers and other events will be held worldwide, the day after the sisters are sentenced. Ground Zero actions August 8, 9, and 10 at the Bangor Trident base will mark Hiroshima/Nagasaki days.

"Millions were in the streets in February to say no to war, all over the world. This is unique in history. We are saying war cannot go on. It is too barbaric. And this president won't go on forever. But now, he is rearming the Minuteman III with a new, more deadly warhead."

On depleted uranium Jackie stated: "Every war we have waged for the last 15 years has been a nuclear war. Depleted uranium is responsible for birth defects and leukemia in Iraq and among our returned soldiers. Locally, Glen Milner has studied Navy war games off the Washington and Oregon coasts, and finds they have fired D.U. into fragile fishing waters. This is criminal."

Star Wars: "...is about mining space for minerals. They say it's for peaceful purposes, but this space work is military. Star Wars, TMD, and weapons in space will enable this country to completely possess what resources exist in space. The Air Force sees domination as a natural progression of its mission to protect corporate interests into space, leading to new weaponry, surveillance, radar-controlled warfare."

Is she afraid? "I have no fear in my body, mind or soul. I attribute this to all the support. There's a real reason for all of this. People are taking nonviolent actions, inspired by the work.

"Jail is just living in a subculture. Some of the most beautiful women I have ever met I've met in jail. They are generous even with the little they have, and ever helpful. Some of them have been awaiting a trial date over a year without bond.

"We must always maintain hope. I see it with the millions in the streets, in young people acting today. We are all in this together, a circle of peace, life, and humanity. We must find where we belong, where we need to be. We all need to be somewhere. Keep hope in your hearts. We will make it through."

Nuns sentenced: A Postscript

In a courtroom so packed with supporters another room had to be opened and wired for sound, Judge Robert Blackburn delivered the sentences of the Plowshares nuns on July 25. Found guilty of sabotage and damaging federal property, Sr. Jackie Hudson was sentenced to 30 months in prison. Sr. Carol Gilbert was sentenced to 33 months in prison. Sr. Ardeth Platte was sentenced to 41 months in prison.

In addition, a period of three years of supervised release is to follow their prison sentences; no fines were imposed but the nuns were ordered to pay restitution of $3,081.04. They were ordered to self-surrender but refused and were taken immediately into custody. Supporters in the main courtroom chanted: "Close the silos; free the nuns!" and the courtroom was cleared.

Quoted in a press release from Jonah House, two of the nuns addressed the crowd before the sentencing. Carol Gilbert said, "Resistance will not be deterred. You cannot silence truth. Truth will be spoken. Law will be upheld. Someday history will prove what we did on the early morning of October 6, 2002 - inspecting, exposing and symbolically disarming a Minuteman 111, a weapon of mass destruction, was legal. Until that day I will continue being led where I would rather not go. I will continue to resist with every fiber of my being so that not one child will ever ask, 'Why were you complicit?'"

Sr. Ardeth Platte said, "Faith and the stanzas of the hymns we sang here record the journey of my life - in waging peace, led on a quest for a world without war ever again; in an attempt to stop the crimes and sins of government in my name; in disarming weapons of mass destruction and stopping the merchant-sales of the killing machines and technology sold to other nations; and calling for design of a global economy that will assure people in the entire world all basic human necessities of food, shelter, education and health care."

"Whatever sentence I receive today will be joyfully accepted as an offering for peace," she continued. "With God's help it will not injure my spirits. In the sacred moments or years of imprisonment, I will remain with you in prayer and walk together with you for the good of all humanity and creation. My love and gratitude always."

The day following the sentencing, hundreds of people joined in actions across weapons fields in Colorado, Montana, and Nebraska, marking their resistance at each missile silo. A banner pulled by a small aircraft over one vigil declared, "We found the weapons of mass destruction here in Colorado!"

Media Beat:
"Media's War Boosters Unlikely to Voice Regret"

Normon Solomon

The superstar columnist George Will has an impressive vocabulary. Too bad it doesn't include the words "I'm sorry."

Ten months ago, Will led the media charge when a member of Congress dared to say that President Bush would try to deceive the public about Iraq. By now, of course, strong evidence has piled up that Bush tried and succeeded.

But back in late September, when a media frenzy erupted about Rep. Jim McDermott's live appearance from Baghdad on ABC's "This Week" program, what riled the punditocracy as much as anything else was McDermott's last statement during the interview: "I think the president would mislead the American people."

First to wave a media dagger at the miscreant was Will, a regular on the ABC television show. Within minutes, on the air, he denounced "the most disgraceful performance abroad by an American official in my lifetime." But the syndicated columnist was just getting started.

Back at his computer, George Will churned out a piece that appeared in The Washington Post two days later, ripping into McDermott and a colleague on the trip, Rep. David Bonior. "Saddam Hussein finds American collaborators among senior congressional Democrats," Will wrote.

There was special venom for McDermott in the column. Will could not abide the spectacle of a Congressperson casting doubt on George W. Bush's utter veracity. "McDermott's accusation that the president — presumably with Cheney, Powell, Rumsfeld, Rice and others as accomplices — would use deceit to satisfy his craving to send young Americans into an unnecessary war is a slander."

During early October, the national media echo chamber kept rocking with countless reprises of Will's bugle call. One of the main reasons for the furor was widespread media denial that "the president would mislead the American people."

"[George]Will could not abide the spectacle of a Congressperson casting doubt on George W. Bush's utter veracity."

An editorial in the Rocky Mountain News fumed that "some of McDermott's words, delivered via TV, were nothing short of outrageous." In Georgia, the Augusta Chronicle declared: "For a U.S. congressman to virtually accuse the president of lying while standing on foreign soil — especially the soil of a nation that seeks to destroy his nation and even tried to assassinate a former U.S. president — is an appallingly unpatriotic act."

Nationally, on the Fox News Channel, the one-man bombast factory Bill O'Reilly accused McDermott of "giving aid and comfort to Saddam while he was in Baghdad." O'Reilly said that thousands of his viewers "want to know why McDermott would give propaganda material to a killer and accuse President Bush of being a liar in the capital city of the enemy."

A syndicated column by hyper-moralist Cal Thomas followed with similar indignation: "We have seen Reps. Jim McDermott of Washington and David Bonior of Michigan — the Bozos of Baghdad — accuse President Bush of lying for political gain about Iraq's threat to civilization."

But such attacks did not come only from right-wing media stalwarts. Plenty of middle-road journalists were happy to go the way of the blowing wind.

During one of her routine appearances on Fox television, National Public Radio political correspondent Mara Liasson commented on McDermott and Bonior: "These guys are a disgrace. Look, everybody knows it's 101, politics 101, that you don't go to an adversary country, an enemy country, and badmouth the United States, its policies and the president of the United States. I mean, these guys ought to, I don't know, resign."

Now that it's evident the president of the United States not only "would" mislead the American people but actually did — with the result of a horrendous war — it's time to ask when such pundits, who went after McDermott with a vengeance last fall, might publicly concede that he made a valid and crucial point.

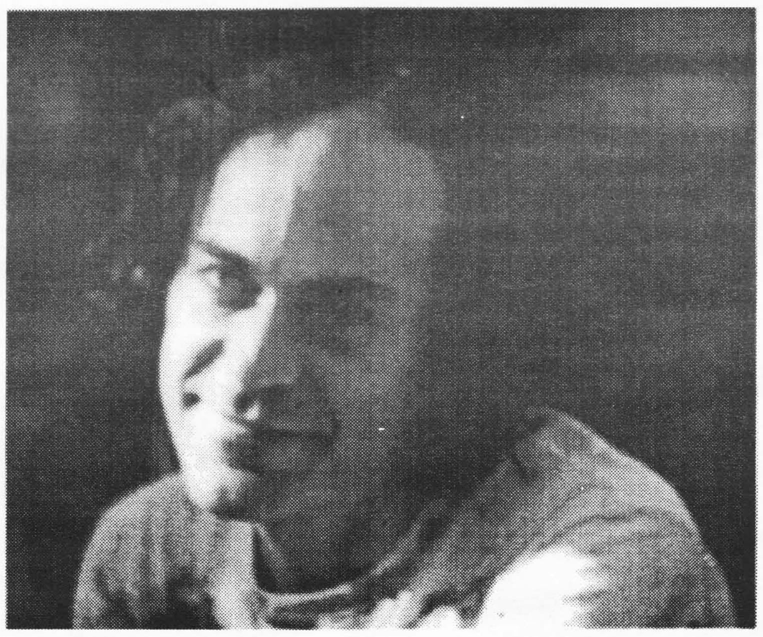
To use George Will's inadvertently apt words, it was prescient to foresee that "the president — presumably with Cheney, Powell, Rumsfeld, Rice and others as accomplices — would use deceit to satisfy his craving to send young Americans into an unnecessary war."

Much more importantly, if a mainstream political journalist like Mara Liasson was so quick to suggest 10 months ago that McDermott resign for inopportunely seeking to prevent a war, when will she advocate that the president resign for dishonestly promoting a war — or, failing resignation, face impeachment?

In Memorium

David George

1952 – 2003



Local media activist, Evergreen alumnus, playful trickster,
gentle and generous man.
You will be missed.

(Kaos Matters, continued)

their stations in a remodeling plan that featured the replacement of volunteers with professionals in a highly formatted, centrally-controlled, and de-radicalized version of grassroots community radio that was no longer worthy of its name.

Not only that, but it turned out that this same Healthy Station Project had actually been welcomed to KAOS in 1991, had made its usual recommendations, and had been championed by management before meeting massive resistance from progressives in the KAOS family, only to be revived by management a second time the next year! Michael, and his associate Juli Kelen, were actually quite close to Lynn Chadwick, in terms of theory and practice, as well as personally. These little facts were not fully disclosed in all of the authoritative spin about why KAOS would avoid taking sides in the "entirely tragic" Pacifica conflict.

So, as a matter of principle I brought the other side of the story to the people on my show, Roots in Rhythm. On eight different weeks I brought eight different guests from the Independent Media Movement, who all told a different story than that being presented by KAOS management. It all ended up with me first getting written-up for minor log errors, continuing to organize for progressive media, and finally being jammed up by the top three managers, who all told me I had covered Pacifica enough, that I had to "stop covering Pacifica".

And so I did- since no one seemed to have my back, I succumbed to the censorship and stopped covering Pacifica. Our campaigns to protect Democracy Now! through participation in the national "Day without Pacifica" symbolic boycott, had met strong resistance from the whole KAOS management team, despite strong community support. In their version of reality, Democracy Now! host Amy Goodman was just an egotist unworthy of support, and her station- WBAI in New York, was NOT undergoing a coup, never-mind the armed guards, mass firings and lockouts.

Thus it continued, with me effectively silenced, till the summer of 2000, when an innocuous little announcement graced my inbox one Friday morning. Signed by Michael, it stated that the results of a new study were in, that KAOS was in a crisis- due to lack of listeners and poor programming. All volunteers were summoned to a mandatory meeting where the results of the study would be discussed. When I called that day to request my copy of the report, I found out that it was no longer "public", that I could not take a copy, as had previously been announced.

I discussed this matter with a friend who is a paralegal. He told me that not only was the previous censorship unconstitutional, but that KAOS could not legally hold these other papers as private, due to the Washington Public Records Act and the Federal Freedom of Information Act!

With his guidance, I did a formal record request, and quickly gained access to the report and to the questionnaires, focus group rosters, and other documents supporting this supposedly "scientific" study. Reading the papers, I was truly horrified. What I found was a highly biased and decidedly unscientific study clearly designed to lead to an all-too familiar conclusion: that KAOS needed to "professionalize" its sound, by getting rid of volunteers and "special interest" programming for people of color, queers etc., instead replacing them with canned NPR shows and other, blander fare.

I therefore decided to discuss these issues with the public on my show. I told Michael of my plans, and invited him to come participate in the show. He wouldn't confirm his presence on my show over the weekend, but he was definitely waiting for me that Monday morning before my show. He insisted that I come into his office for an abusive verbal assault, and then chased me down the hall into the broadcast studio, looming over me in a most threatening manner.

> ***"If the Federal Court must function as our Truth and Reconciliation Commission, then that is the choice of those in power."***

When I turned on the mike for my own protection, Michael suddenly pulled the plug on the station, a not only "unprofessional", but indeed illegal, maneuver. However, I found out that I was the one who was banned and fired for the incident- Michael resigned suddenly after a bunch of irate community-members came to the next staff meeting.

When I told Michael that I protested his banning me from the air on KAOS, he was quick to send me to HIS boss, Tom Mercado. Tom gave me less than 30 seconds on the phone, upholding the firing without putting anything on paper. My appeal to his superior, Phyllis Lane, was equally bogus.

My next appeal, to VP Art Costantino, only appeared more serious- it was not. I began to realize that this was all a game, that despite citing the relevant laws and court rulings, there was no justice. President Les Purce not only refused to see me, he also prepped the Board of Trustees to a possible complaint by me by sending them a defamatory letter associating me with violent, black-clad anarchists who break police-car windows with sledge hammers. Knowing from my secret sources that just a memo existed, I requested it from Les Purce's office, which officially told me that it did not exist!

So, for three years I have sent repeated appeals and warnings, from high to low, not once, but many times, and they have fallen on seemingly deaf ears. If Evergreen and KAOS now find themselves being sued in Federal Court, one might say they brought it on themselves.

I applaud the good work done by Michael, Juli, and all the members of the KAOS-family, people that I have known and respected for many years, but something is obviously quite wrong here. When a long-time member of that same family speaks the truth at great personal risk, casting them out is not the solution.

We can do better, not just in terms of labor rights and administrative process, but also in terms of progressive media. Michael and others did important work in expanding our signal area. Now we need to bring Democracy Now! and other progressive material to our new listeners at Ft. Lewis, on the Rez, and in various rural communities. In so doing, and by greating and sustaining a structure whereby the community has a real place at the table- to know about important decisions, and participate in a meaningful and measurable way, we can best honor the work of all those who have contributed to what is truly OUR community radio.

In closing, let me say that just as nations wracked by war find that lasting Peace can be achieved only through a reckoning with the crimes of the past, with due acknowledgement of wrongdoing by the guilty and a redress of grievances, so is it with our own "radio wars". If the Federal Court must function as our Truth and Reconciliation Commission, then that is the choice of those in power. I can only thank God and the Progressive Movement that I finally got meaningful legal representation and the possibility of Justice, because KAOS does indeed matter- to me, to our community, and to our world.

For a Free and Independent Media.

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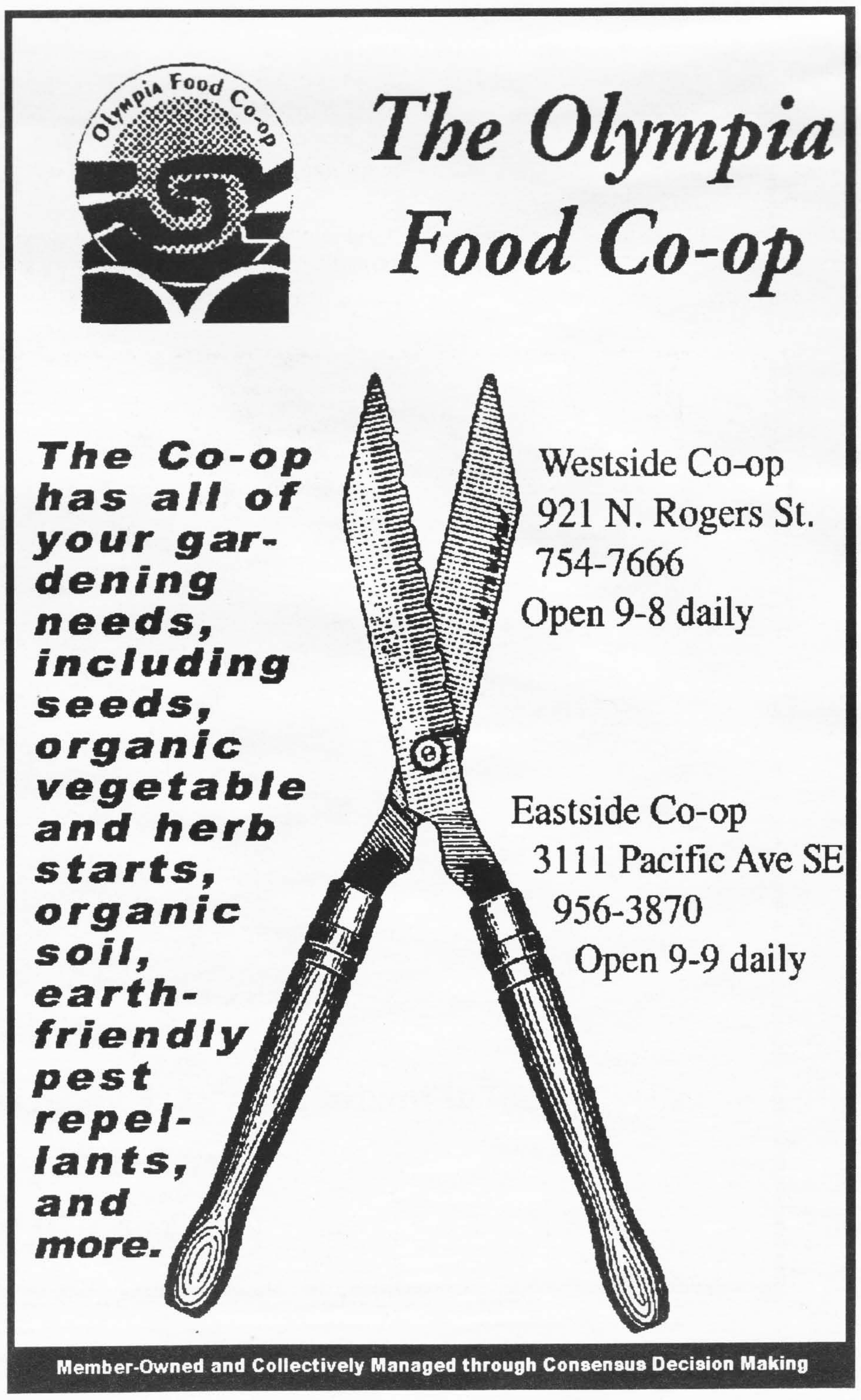

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The Co-op has all of your gardening needs, including seeds, organic vegetable and herb starts, organic soil, earth-friendly pest repellants, and more.

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Member-Owned and Collectively Managed through Consensus Decision Making

FCC Deregulation, Iraq, and the Failure of the Media

Matthew Ford

The Senate has recently begun the process of reversing recent decisions made by the Federal Communications Commission to loosen media ownership rules, which allow massive consolidation of newspaper and broadcasting mega-conglomerates. Legislation, which cleared the Senate Commerce Committee in mid-June, would put a hold on further monopolization of information by restricting individual corporations from "grabbing" even larger shares of the news "market." Why should we care? A clear example can be seen in the "imperialist ambitions," to use policy planner Richard Haass's term, of the recent US invasion and subsequent military occupation of Iraq, a previously sovereign nation.

The inaccurate and sensationalized mainstream media coverage of the US military occupation of Iraq manipulated and controlled public opinion through the repetition of false or misleading claims, resulting in disproportionate support. For example polls carried out before the invasion by reliable sources indicated that 77% of Americans believed that Iraq possessed nuclear weapons and 85% acknowledged a link between Al-Qaeda and Saddam Hussein. Of course these suspect beliefs are not nearly as disturbing as a New York Times/CBS poll that indicated 42% of Americans believed that Saddam Hussein was directly responsible for the September 11 attacks. Recent developments point even further away from what many Americans believed leading up to the invasion.

However, we would be foolish to believe that these polls suggest that Americans are stupid or ignorant. To the contrary, they indicate a systematic failure of the mass media to convey accurately the information necessary to make reasoned and informed decisions that promote thoughtful, active civic participation. If this is the case, what is the problem and what can we do about it?

The main issue is control over information by a few mega-conglomerates that are largely dependent on advertising revenues and that function like any other corporation which is motivated by profits, rather than a desire to educatie the public or present diverse, well-informed opinions.

http://www.thenation.com/special/bigten.html
Revenues of the top Media Corporations:

General Electric	$129.9 Billion 2001
AOL/Time Warner	$36.2 Billion 2001
The Walt Disney Company	$25.4 Billion 2001
Viacom	$20 Billion 2001
News Corporation	$11.6 Billion 2001

According to national surveys in 2000, 61% of Americans received their news from television (and 24% from newspapers). Right now five major corporations, General Electric, Viacom, AOL-Time Warner, Disney, and the News Corporation virtually monopolize electronic media, pulling in revenues ranging from $11.5 billion to $129.9 billion in 2001.

"Perhaps if we had already taken back our media the US push to militarily occupy Iraq could have been thwarted."

Beholden to shareholders and advertisers these media conglomerates are forced to make sure that "news" sells and that costs are kept low.

This is combined with the type of self-censorship illustrated by Dan Rather's declaration, "What we are talking about here - whether one wants to recognize it or not, or call it by its proper name or not - is a form of self-censorship. It starts with a feeling of patriotism within oneself. It carries through with a certain knowledge that the country as a whole...felt and continues to feel this surge of patriotism within themselves [sic]. And one finds oneself saying: 'I know the right question, but do you know what?

This is not exactly the right time to ask it." The result is poor reporting that relies heavily on White House press conferences and "expert sources," such as government and military officials, rather than down-and-dirty, old fashioned investigative journalism.

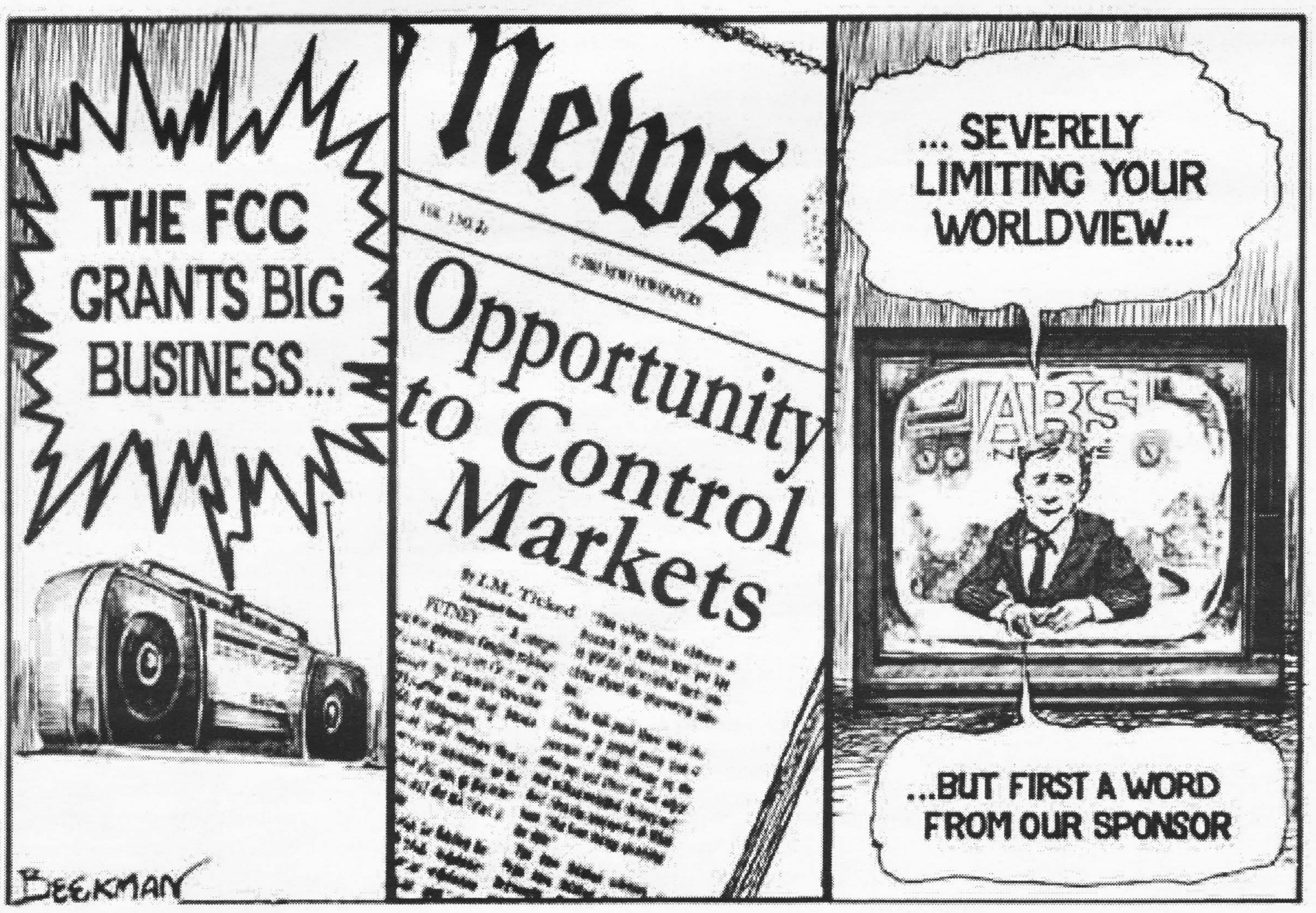
The consequences of a systematic failure by the media regarding a US invasion of Iraq have been severe, as the Bush administration seems to have pulled us into a "war without end" in which more and more Iraqi civilians and US soldiers are being killed without at clear or justified reasons.

Even as the New York Times continues following a "Hunt for WMDs" many people, especially Europeans, are beginning to realize that the claims by the Bush administration about weapons of mass destruction were at best misleading and at worst totally fabricated and that this type of modern "good colonization" will actually increase the likelihood of terrorist attacks, even according to the CIA. Although, at the present the mainstream media is able to downplay the violence being perpetrated against Iraqis, as the US becomes more repressive and Iraqis continue to struggle against their colonizers the mainstream media will be forced to focus on the misdeeds of the US government, unfortunately while asking such misplaced questions as "what went wrong?"

Of course this is not the only example of systematic failure (or bias) in the corporate media, and for this reason we must not only support the current move by the Senate Commerce Committee, but also suggest more progressive reforms that would allow more control of the news by civic participants instead of a few wealthy businesspersons. Media critic Robert McChesney suggests these reforms ought to include development of non-commercial, community-run, public-access television and radio systems which are distinct from public-service broadcasting and that are deeply rooted in local communities; stricter standards for commercial broadcasters, limits on advertising through regulation and taxation; assertion of existing anti-trust laws; and tax breaks and subsidies for media and production cooperatives.

On the other hand, we must recognize that trying to compete with the media monopoly through progressive alternative media can only take us so far. Taking back the media is not a question of trying to use the master's tools to dismantle the master's house, but rather the need to reclaim what is ours and remake it in our image.

Movement in this direction, through organizing, educating, and mobilizing would increase the access to accurate and important information and news absolutely necessary to the functioning of a healthy and meaningful democracy. Perhaps if we had already taken back our media the US push to militarily occupy Iraq could have been thwarted. Moreover, future attempts at "regime change" in places, such as Colombia or Venezuela could be stopped in their tracks.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BEEKMAN

BUILDING WANTED

Olympia Community Build a Bike Project and EGYHOP are joining forces to find a building to benefit three established community-based projects. Our goal is to obtain a building for Olympia Community Build a Bike Project, EGYHOP's bike project, and the Olympia Branch of Books to Prisoners.

Groups Involved

Olympia Community Build a Bike Project is a group of volunteers who enjoy bikes and helping others to enjoy them, too. Our efforts are intended to create a bike community and promote bicycle culture. Bikes for everyone!

Emma Goldman Youth and Homeless Outreach Project (EGYHOP) provides direct outreach services to the homeless community in Olympia. EGYHOP also provides free bikes to low/no income people. The building will help provide a Bike Dispatch Center.

Books to Prisoners needs a library and shipping location. BTP is an all volunteer effort to provide reading material, free of charge, to inmates in prisons and jail across the country. BTP Olympia is a support organization for Left Bank Books in Seattle which has been running Books to Prisoners since 1979.

What we need

We are looking for a warehouse or suitable space (2,000 or more square feet, centrally located) for these three projects to co-exist and work together.

This space will house considerable bike repair, a book processing and shipping area, offices and working storage space for books, bikes and outreach supplies. Ideally this space would see all kinds of people coming and going to work in support of these worthwhile community endeavors.

Needs list:

Building, house or suitable space.

Building owners, supporters, dedicated volunteers, grant writers, bike enthusiasts.

Donations, fundraisers.

The people behind this effort to acquire a building are Terry Zander and Longhair David.

"Long Hair" David: Phone 360/791-2241 Email: lhd@olywa.net

Terry Zander (Build-a-Bike) Phone 786-1693 or tezzer1@yahoo.com

(Announcements, etc. continued)

Help Our Rallies, Marches, etc. Be More Effective:

Learn Peacekeeper Skills

Sunday August 10 and Saturday August 23

As we look ahead to future rallies, marches and other nonviolent actions for peace, social justice and other issues, we want to prepare now so they will be more effective. Trained peacekeepers can help our events be satisfying and safe for participants and successful in achieving our goals.

The Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) has organized **one day of basic peacekeeper training locally** to **create a pool of trained peacekeepers who can help in future rallies, marches, etc.** Two highly skilled trainers from Seattle (Ellen Finkelstein and Michael Siptroth) will conduct 6 Ω hours of basic peacekeeper training on two occasions in August.

(This is the same training on two occasions, so you may choose whichever date works better for you.)

Please arrive on time and plan to stay all the way until the end.

SUN AUG 10: Arrive between 11:30 and 11:50 a.m. so we can start on time!

Training starts promptly at 12:00 noon.

Training ends at 6:30 p.m.

SAT AUG 23: Arrive between 9:30 and 9:50 a.m. so we can start on time!

Training starts promptly at 10:00 a.m.

Training ends at 4:30 p.m.

Both trainings will be in the basement of Lacey Community Church, 4501 19th Ave SE, slightly west of College Street SE in **Lacey**. There is plenty of free parking in front of the building.

A sliding-scale donation of $10-$40 will be requested to cover the costs.

Everyone is welcome regardless of ability to pay.

Please pre-register with Glen Anderson (360) 491-9093 glen@olywa.net

1st Annual Harbor Nights

The 1st Annual Harbor Nights, Friday August 29th at Olympia's Port Plaza. This event is a fundraiser for the South Sound Maritime Heritage Association (SSMHA), which brings you Harbor Days, and also helps to shore up the funding for some other maritime community projects. Some involve South Sound Maritime Heritage such as restoration of the classic working tug from our harbor, the Sandman; other programs are focused on a community boat shop, youth water experiences and the environment. Another such project, Sound Opportunities of BHR (Behavioral Health Resources) is also supported by SSMHA. This program works with youth at risk and others giving them an a chance to experience first hand the waters of the Puget Sound with boat building and canoeing adventures on the sound.

Where is Olympia's Port Plaza you may ask? It's at the far north end of the Boardwalk downtown by the watchtower, and it's definitely a place you want to be to support this great cause. You'll also be treated to a swell 'Night Out on the Harbor'. **Gates open at 5:30pm.** Tickets are available in advance from the Washington Center for the Performing Arts at the Box Office, 512 Washington St SE, by telephone 753-8586 or online at www.washingtoncenter.org. Seating is limited. Any tickets that are left will be sold at the gate. There will be a great NW food booth, a beer garden and outstanding entertainment.

The music begins at 6:30pm with Blues Attitude, followed by Slide Blues Guitar Master Roy Rogers and Harmonica Virtuoso Norton Buffalo.

Come for the music, the food, and the fun and to support a great cause in our community. For more details check out the Harbor Nights link from www.harbordays.com. We'll see you at the Port Plaza!

Media Island Fundraiser

Blackfire, 2002 Native American Music Award Winner will be performing

With local band **Poet Warrior** and other local native singers and drummers. Educational info about local and national Native American issues throughout the evening.

This is a benefit show for Media Island International

Admission:
$5-50 Sliding Scale

Where:
Radio Ranch 3102 8th Avenue NE (8th and Pattison)
When:
August 13th, 2003
Doors open at 5pm Carpool from Media Island (816 Adams St)
Poet Warrior 6-7pm;° Blackfire 7-9pm

About Blackfire:

Blackfire will be debuting the New Woody Guthrie Singles at this time.

Blackfire is a dynamic indigenous Navajo punk family from big Mountain in Arizona.° Their powerful music reflects the hopes, freedoms and barriers that many of us face in today's world.

°

Call (928)527-1041 to arrange for an interview with Blackfire. Also

Check out their website www.blackfire.net for more info about the band.

°

Call Media Island for more info 352-8526

Please Carpool!!! Parking is Limited !!!

This is an All Ages Show

NO ALCOHOL OR DRUGS ALLOWED ON THE PREMESIS.° PLEASE RESPECT OUR HOSTS!

FreeSkool Classes

Summer classes at the FreeSkool are underway! Here is a list of our August classes. For a look at our complete summer catalog, to register for a class, or to find out more about the FreeSkool, please check our website: www.freeskoolco-op.org. Thanks for supporting your community skill share network.

13 Moon Calendar of World Peace

Go*: the ancient art, and strategy game

On-Going Bike Workshops for the intermediate level mechanic:

The Power and Practicality of Nonviolence

Going Beyond Protest: Methods of Nonviolent Resistance

Writing Effective News Releases

Political Writing for the Larger Community

Yoga and Meditation

Bath Salts and Salt Glows

Cartooning for Kids

Drawing for Kids

Creative writing and Performance Art

Demystifyling the basics of gardening

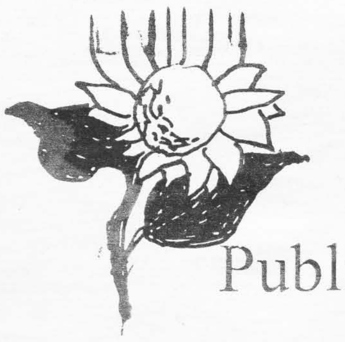
Natural Building in Olympia

Olympia Community FreeSkool
FreeSkool@Ureach.com
www.freeskoolco-op.org
1-877-296-4981
P.O. Box 7204
Olympia, WA 98507

In Search of the Big Picture Video Gathering resumes

The Video Gathering resumes in the fall, on **the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at Traditions/Fair Trade** in downtown Olympia. **On September 16 we begin** with the "Media that Matters Film Festival." This is a collection of some twelve short videos, ranging from lighthearted explorations of understanding between people to gritty topics like prison rape. (Total length a little under 90 minutes.) Actually the gritty stuff prevails. It's powerful stuff. Expect a response that alternates between laughter and rage.

For more information contact Carol: carolburns@olywa.net



The Jade Lantern

Publication of the Green Party of South Puget Sound

Green Party Delegates Affirm Plans to

Run a National Candidate in 2004

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Greens, during their national meeting in Washington, D.C. July 19-20, affirmed the party's intention to run candidates for President and Vice President of the United States in 2004.

"This meeting produced a clear mandate for a strong Green Party presidential ticket in 2004," said Ben Manski, co-chair of the Green Party of the United States. "This meeting in Washington was a crossroads, and we chose the path of growth and establishing ourselves as the true opposition party."

Three presidential hopefuls -- David Cobb, Lorna Salzman, and Carol Miller -- spoke at a reception on Saturday evening, July 19 for Greens seeking the national nomination in 2004. Ralph Nader, Cynthia McKinney, and Paul Glover, all of whom are also considering national campaigns, sent statements that were read during the reception.

Greens also adopted an African-American Outreach proposal which enlists the participation of prominent African-American political and religious leaders, cultural figures, scholars, and writers. The outreach campaign will especially target historically black colleges and universities.

"The support Ralph Nader gained from some well-known African-American figures, including Randall Robinson, Danny Glover, and Chuck D, was vital to Mr. Nader's campaign in 2000 and to the Green Party in general," said George Martin of the Wisconsin Green Party. "They helped us gain new membership and participation, not just among African-Americans but all Americans who respect their leadership."

How to Not Spoil An Election

The choice faced by the national Green Party was whether to run our own candidate and back him-or-her to the hilt, or back a candidate who may have a better chance of beating Bush. The dilemma is reflected in the choice faced by citizens who want to do the best thing in the coming election — vote their conscience, or vote for a compromise candidate.

If Instant Runoff Voting became law, any votes cast for a candidate who lost the plurality would automatically go to the voter's second choice. No one could spoil a candidate's chances under that scenario.

The editors of the Jade Lantern would like to suggest that citizens wanting to do the right thing should, first of all, work for Instant Runoff Voting. This will ensure that not only their vote but all third party votes are used as the voter intends. Voters should lobby the major parties as well as their representatives and the state administration.

What is Instant Runoff Voting?

IRV allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference, so that in cases where there is no initial majority winner, a runoff recount can be conducted without a new election. It is used in Vermont (statewide offices), San Francisco, Australia, Ireland, and Great Britain.

Find more information at http://www.instantrunoff.com/

A Washington State Hero

Brent White, Green Party member from Seattle, has spent the last three years in a heroic effort to reform voting in Washington State. Brent lobbies while the legislature is in session, and between sessions works to enlarge his network. Each year Brent comes a little closer to the achievement of his goal.

To ask how you can help, contact Brent at brent_white@hotmail.com.

Logo Contest

Be the person who creates a new logo for the Green Party of South Puget Sound. It can be camera-ready or just an idea, but it must in some way reflect the identity and vision of the GPoSPS (you must explain how). Deadline: August 23. Send to us at the address at lower right corner.

E-voting systems 'risk election fraud'

NewScientist.com news service

Software flaws in a leading US electronic voting system could be used to subvert the outcome of an election, claim researchers from Johns Hopkins University and Rice University in the US.

The researchers went through every line of code used to control a voting machine made by Diebold Election Systems of Ohio, US. They reported serious bugs that could allow one person to cast many electronic votes.

"Common voters, without any insider privileges, can cast unlimited votes without being detected by any mechanisms within the voting system," the paper says.

Diebold says the research overlooks the "total system of software, hardware, services and poll worker training" used. The company also says that the code analyzed has since been updated.

But the researchers argue that the code they looked at could not be made secure by updating and would need to be rewritten from scratch.

They conclude that counterfeit voting cards could be created using off-the-shelf smart cards and card programming devices. These could be distributed to people wishing to change the outcome of an election. The researchers say if it were possible to tamper with a voting box itself, legitimate votes could be transferred to from one candidate to another.

Interest in voting systems has increased dramatically since the crucial and contested presidential vote in Florida in 2000.

Diebold technology was used in state-wide elections in the state of Georgia in 2002, and about 33,000 Diebold devices have been installed in the US.

Olympia City Council asked to

Resolve Against the Patriot Act

On August 19, 2003 the Olympia Coalition to Protect the Constitution (OCPC) will formally present to the Olympia City Council, for its adoption, a Resolution Against the Patriot Act. The presentation will not require testimony from the public, although it would be a very fitting time for Olympia residents to attend.

The Resolution will be presented for public comment at a later date, probably in September. To testify, contact the Coalition, so that we may coordinate speakers on the many pertinent topics.

OCPC is comprised of the Green Party of South Puget Sound, the Unitarian Universalist Church, the Welfare Rights Organization Coalition, and the Thurston County American Civil Liberties Union.

This is a good time for concerned citizens to submit letters to local newspapers and to the City Council, indicating their concerns and objections to the Patriot Act and supporting the Resolution.

Objectionable provisions of the Patriot Act include "Sneak and Peek"/ warrant-less searches of residences, ethnic and racial profiling, unlawful detainment, and searches of individual records including internet and library usage, book store purchases, and medical and financial histories.

Information regarding the Patriot Act can be found at www.bordc.org, www.aclu.org, and Common Dreams.

The timing is good. Approximately 140 communities have passed resolutions against the Patriot Act, and Congress is taking some action. Let's get involved NOW against this dangerous, corrosive threat to our civil liberties.

Contact Coral Spickler at 754-7773 or Bruce DeLoria at 456-7180 with any questions.

Next **members meeting**: August 27th 7-9pm, Olympia Library meeting room. Join us !

Purging the Rolls in Thurston County

Nine percent of the voters registered in 2002 have been purged from Thurston County rolls since December of that year – a total of 12,135 voters. GPoSPS is analyzing the records to find out if these purges were legitimate.

If you moved recently your vote may have been removed. Check to make sure; you may need to re-register. To vote in the primary, you may register by mail until August 16, or in person until September 1.

Come to our Picnic!

Greens plan a picnic for Sunday, July 31, at Priest Point Park (Shelter 3) from 5 to 9 PM. It's for party members and their friends, and we'd like to make more friends, so come and meet some like-minded people. Bring a dish and your musical instrument.

For the Greens, it wouldn't be a party without speeches, but we've promised to keep it down to 15 minutes tops. Otherwise, we'll be doing lots of eating and games. And there are trails, and the bay . .

Come join us for the afternoon.

Published by
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325 Washington St. NE
P.M.B. 317
WA 98501
Membership application at:
www.greenparty-sps.org
Email to: gposps@yahoo.com
Phone: 455-4336

1
Kaos Matters, Member-Owned Co-op
&
Real Democracy Starts With Us
4
Support Billy Nessen
5
Bound and Gagged
&
New Quebec Nationalism
8
A Radical Roadmap for Peace
10
Roadmap Diplomacy Conceals Israeli Apartheid Policies
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The Making of a Police State
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Medea Benjamin In Tacoma
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Sometimes Even the President of the U. S. Has to Stand Naked
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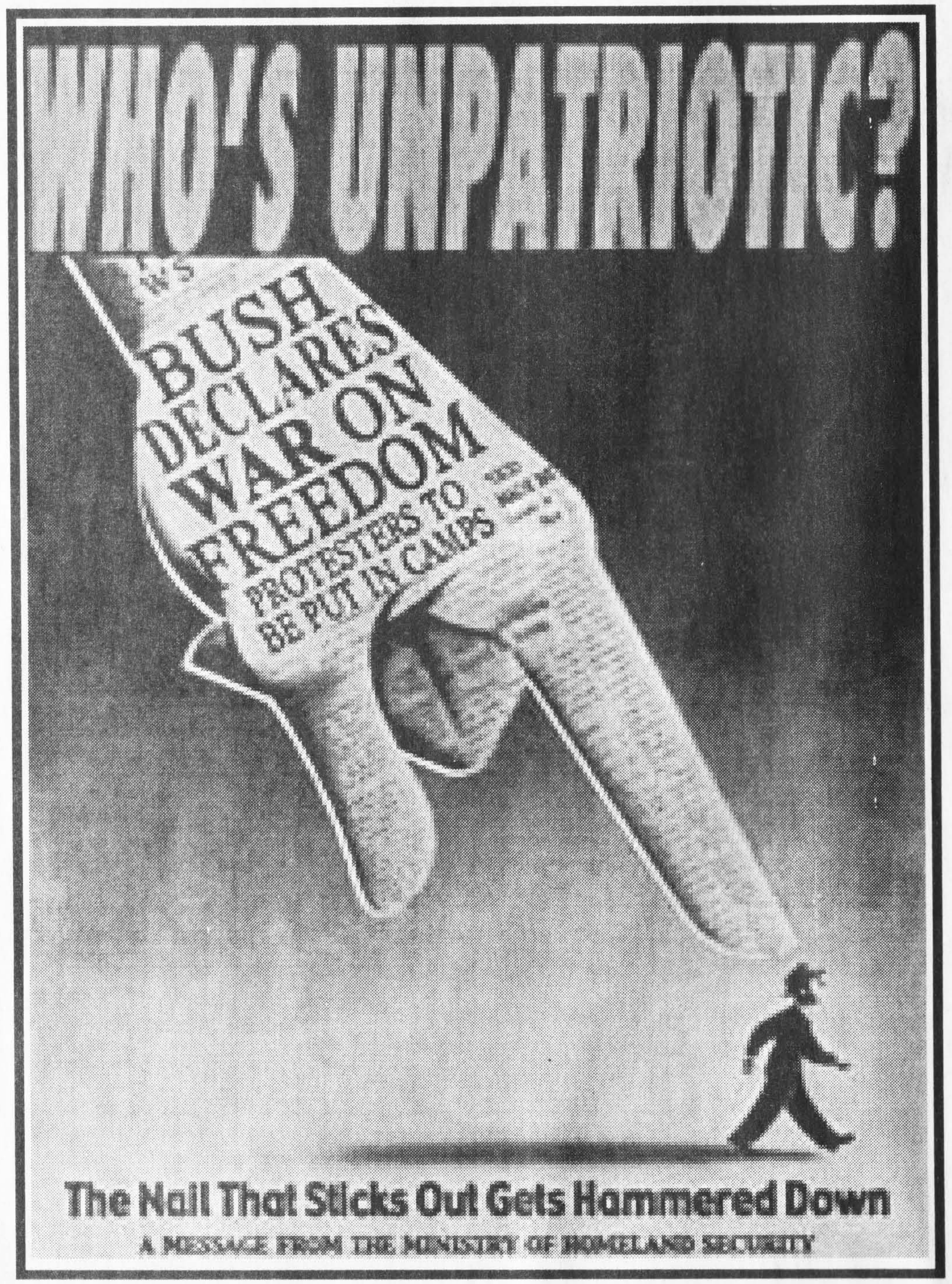
Plowshares II Nun Speaks In Olympia
17
FCC Deregulation, Iraq, and the Failure of the Media


WHO'S UNPATRIOTIC?
BUSH DECLARES WAR ON FREEDOM
PROTESTERS TO BE PUT IN CAMPS
The Nail That Sticks Out Gets Hammered Down
A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTRY OF HOMELAND SECURITY

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TRUTH ABOUT POWER IS SPOKEN HERE
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Photo by REUTERS/Tarmizy Harva

TRUTH ON TRIAL IN INDONESIA

U.S. freelance journalist Billy Nessen
on trial in Aceh, Indonesia.

See Support Billy Nessen page 4